



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

Princess Caroline's husband dies

MONTE CARLO (R) — The husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco was killed in a power boat accident on Wednesday, the second tragedy in eight years to hit the royal family of this tiny Mediterranean principality. Stefano Casiraghi, a 30-year-old Italian businessman, was killed instantly when his 15-metre boat Pinot di Pinot overturned during a race near the resort of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat. He was trapped beneath the hull. Casiraghi was defending his title of world offshore champion when his boat, which could reach a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour, overturned after hitting a wave. Princess Caroline has had three children since the couple married 1983, one year after her mother, Princess Grace, was killed in a car crash.

Mubarak, Fahd cable King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable of good wishes from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. The cable wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress for the Jordanian people. The King also received a cable from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in reply to one he had sent to the Saudi monarch on his country's national day. Fahd thanked the King for his cable of good wishes and wished the King continued health and happiness and further progress for the Jordanian people.

Volume 15 Number 4512

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4-5, 1990, RABIA AWWAL 15-16, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Kaifu arrives, stresses peace option in Gulf

Japanese premier holds talks with Crown Prince and Badran, meets Ramadan today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches
AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu flew into Amman Wednesday on a visit which assumed a higher political dimension with a surprise announcement that he would be meeting a senior Iraqi leader here for talks on the Gulf crisis.
In talks he held with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a subsequent address at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Mender Badran, Kaifu underlined his country's desire for a diplomatic/political settlement to the Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2.
The confirmation that Kaifu would also be meeting Taha Yassin Ramadan, number three in the Iraqi hierarchy, came from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who, in comments to reporters after talks with the Japanese premier in Cairo earlier in the day, also expressed hope that the encounter in Amman would produce fruitful results towards resolving the Gulf crisis. Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, was expected to fly into Amman late Wednesday, sources said.
According to a Japanese spokesman, the meeting was requested by Iraq and Japan accepted. It would be the first top-level contact between Iraq and Japan after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.
The Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Tadayuki Nonoyama, has said that Kaifu was not carrying any new ideas to resolve the Gulf crisis.
In his meeting with the Crown Prince, Kaifu affirmed that Japan was taking a careful foray into efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the crisis. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted him as saying that Tokyo would pursue endeavours to find a peace settlement in the Gulf.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan holds talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu (centre)

The prime minister stressed the need for a diplomatic solution to the crisis based on United Nations principles, Petra said.
He also told Prince Hassan of Japan's intention to extend urgent assistance in Jordan to help the Kingdom overcome economic difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis. Prince Hassan outlined the problems Jordan is facing as a result of the Gulf crisis and the imposition of mandatory United Nations sanctions against Iraq.
The agency said.
Kaifu, who pledged in Cairo to grant Egypt an emergency commodity loan worth \$300 million to help Egypt cope with the impact of the Gulf crisis, is expected to make a similar commitment in Amman, but no specific figures were available. Japanese officials accompanying Kaifu said Egypt was also to get a development loan of \$100 million.
(Continued on page 5)

United Germany pledges to work for world peace

Combined agency dispatches
BERLIN — Germany's leaders Wednesday marked the historic unification by assuring the world their united country will work for peace and never forget their responsibility for World War II.
Random violence in nearly a dozen cities marred the unity celebrations overnight. About 15,000 leftists protesting the merger rallied Wednesday afternoon in Berlin's working-class district of Kreuzberg, and numerous shouting matches with police broke out.
The nation was less than 12 hours old when Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker made their assurances of peace.
"Our country, with its regained national unity, will work for peace in the world and promote European unity," Kohl said in a message sent to all the governments of the world. It was his first foreign policy declaration since becoming chancellor of the united country at midnight.
"At the same time, we stand by our moral and legal responsibilities that arise from German history," Kohl added.
Von Weizsaecker spoke of Germany's "historic responsibility" stemming from the war.
"The Nazi terror and the war it caused inflicted untold serious injustices and suffering on almost all of Europe and on us," von Weizsaecker told an audience at a formal ceremony in the Berlin Philharmonie Hall. "We continuously recall the victims."
The 70-year-old head of state, whose insistence that Germans remember the catastrophe of Hitler's Third Reich won him widespread respect, said Germany wants "to serve world peace in a united Europe."
The statements were meant to calm fears about the mighty new Germany with 78 million people in the centre of Europe. Despite repeated German denials, many Europeans fear the new country will supplant the Soviet Union as a superpower and dominate the continent.
The world showered congratulations on Germany Wednesday for its rebirth as a united country.
But many references to the previous experience with Germany as the dominant power in Europe showed that the past is still not quite forgotten.
Israel Radio said Kohl "expressed the hope that united Germany will member the catastrophe of Hitler's Third Reich won him widespread respect, said Germany wants "to serve world peace in a united Europe."
(Continued on page 5)

Saddam Hussein visits Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches
IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein visited Kuwait Wednesday, meeting with military commanders and a number of officials appointed by Baghdad to govern Kuwait, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.
It was the Iraqi leader's first visit to what Baghdad now calls Iraq's 19th province since the Aug. 2 invasion.
Saddam also met with Iraqi troops and talked to the fighters who confirmed their ever-readiness for sacrifice for Iraq and the Arab Nation and defeating all evil attempts to desecrate our sacred land," said the news agency.
Iraq has some 430,000 troops in or close to Kuwait, backed by 3,500 tanks.
They are confronted by a multinational force of over 300,000 Western and Arab troops backed by 700 warplanes, with dozens of fighting ships enforcing a United Nations blockade against Iraq.
INA gave no further details of the visit, and did not say whether Saddam had returned to Baghdad.
Morocco's ambassador to Paris said Wednesday Saddam has no intention of making himself a martyr and Iraq's takeover of Kuwait can form the subject of negotiations.
But Youssef Ben Abbas, briefing reporters after a visit to Iraq by an envoy of Morocco's King Hassan, said that Iraq would never approve the return to power of the Emir of Kuwait.
The annexation of Kuwait can be discussed and negotiated, notably a better access to the sea, joint oil exploitation and cancelling the Iraqi debt. President Saddam Hussein has no intention to sacrifice himself to be a martyr," Ben Abbas said.
Morocco has sent 1,200 troops to the Gulf zone as part of the international U.N.-led force.
Ben Abbas said Iraq wanted to avoid losing face, adding that its adversaries were divided, with some countries wanting to destroy it and others seeing their role as protecting Saudi Arabia from aggression.
The ambassador was speaking after a visit to Baghdad by Ahmad Guedira, the Moroccan monarch's special envoy.
"This crisis displays that the United States and the international community can no longer play for time on the Palestinian problem," he added.
He praised recent comments by Western leaders that a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis could take in wider Middle East issues, as demanded by Iraq.
Iraq has warned the United States and its Gulf force allies to expect carnage and deaths in any war against the battle-hardened Iraqi army.
"Thousands of Americans and allied troops will perish in an alien land and will go back to their countries in coffins," Baghdad Radio said late Tuesday.
The commentary said air power would not achieve victory against Iraq.
Recalling U.S. losses in Vietnam, Baghdad Radio said that the small country survived the heaviest air attacks in modern history and taught the Americans an unforgettable lesson.
It said U.S. President George Bush was wrong to think air strikes would intimidate Iraq.
"Mr. Bush is telling the Americans that he and his allies are capable of inflicting quick strikes against their targets in Iraq and end the war they plan for in that way," the radio said.
"But Bush has to tell his people what almost all military strategists agree upon — air power has never decided the outcome of a war for the United States...
"So the Americans are obliged in fact on the ground if they want to lead a war, thus facing a well-equipped and war-hardened Iraqi army... demanding greater sacrifices and bigger losses."
U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday he found growing scepticism among the nations of the world for military action against Iraq to force a withdrawal from Kuwait.
"There is more of a willingness to consider some sort of an approach like that if it became necessary as an appropriate time," Baker said at a news conference.
"It seems there is a greater willingness to consider something like this than one would have expected a week ago coming into these U.N. meetings," he said after a week's consultations in New York with counterparts and diplomats from other nations attending United Nations sessions.
But he stressed sentiments could change quickly, even in a day. And he emphasised that Bush preferred a diplomatic and political solution to the crisis.
(Continued on page 5)

King receives message from Gorbachev Jordan shares Soviet views against use of force in Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday emphasised Jordan's keenness on reaching a political settlement to the Gulf crisis and other Middle East issues and said Amman shared the Soviet view that military force should not be used to settle regional or international disputes.
The King was speaking during a meeting at the Royal Court with a senior Soviet envoy, Yevgeny Primakov, who delivered to him a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the Gulf crisis and current efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the problem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.
The meeting at the Royal Court was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, (Continued on page 5)

Grenade attack wounds two Israeli policemen in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A hand grenade hurled from a speeding car wounded two Israeli policemen and five Palestinians Wednesday, sources and hospital staff said. A Palestinian boy also died Wednesday of injuries suffered during an earlier clash with Israeli soldiers.
The attack, just outside the Old City walls in Arab Jerusalem, bore the hallmarks of the militant Islamic Jihad Palestinian underground.
The paramilitary police have played a prominent role in trying to put down the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising.
"One policeman looked badly injured. The other one had a gash in his side," a witness quoted by Reuters said.
Hospital staff said five Palestinian were treated for light shrapnel wounds.
Police cordoned off the area immediately after the blast and said more than 100 Palestinians were detained for questioning.
Nearby, about 75 Palestinian men were forced to sit with their hands around their knees and border police searched for other possible explosives.
One Israeli has been killed and more than 12 wounded in three bomb attacks in Jerusalem since May.
Leaders of the uprising have forbidden the use of firearms but some groups say their use is legitimate against armed police and soldiers.
Islamic Jihad has in the past shot soldiers and security agents from cars. It staged a 1986 grenade attack on army recruits which killed an Israeli and wounded 69 and like Wednesday's explosion was close to the Old City walls.
Also Wednesday, a Palestinian teen-ager died of a gunshot wound suffered in a clash with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank, the army said.

Hrawi rejects French 'threat'

ANTELIAS, Lebanon (Agencies) — France stopped issuing visas to Lebanese Wednesday, apparently because of President Elias Hrawi's refusal to lift a blockade intended to starve rebel General Michel Aoun from his enclave in Lebanon's Christian heartland.
The report by the communist-run Voice of the People radio station came as emotional funeral services were held in the coastal town and other villages for 30 victims killed at a candlelight vigil supporting Aoun Monday.
Grief-stricken women tumbled themselves on the coffins of husbands and sons while mourners booed the Vatican papal nuncio for his failure to attend the funeral. Church bells tolled throughout the enclave.
A French embassy source confirmed the suspension of visas. The blockade made it impossible for consular officials to commute between the two embassy branches to complete visa formalities, said the source.
French Ambassador Rene Ala Monday conveyed to Hrawi France's displeasure with the blockade, saying it would hurt the enclave's population of 150,000 more than Aoun and his 150,000 mainly Christian soldiers, the Voice of the People report said.
Ala told Hrawi the French government might close its embassy in west Beirut if Hrawi failed to lift the siege, but Hrawi "flatly rejected the French demand and threat," the report said.
Ala drove from Hrawi's west Beirut residence to the French embassy office in the Christian suburb of Hazmeh in Aoun's zone, where he usually stays, but was forced to get out of his car and walk across the 500-metre mid-city museum crossing with his French bodyguards, the radio report said.
Ala later left abruptly for Paris, it was said.
France has traditionally sympathized with the Maronite Catholic community, which supported its 1920-1943 mandate in Lebanon and has dominated power since independence.
Diplomatic sources said Hrawi now seemed increasingly likely to order an attack to topple Aoun. They blamed Monday's killings on the Lebanese forces militia allied with Aoun in (Continued on page 5)

Iraq offers to free all French nationals

Combined agency dispatches
AMMAN — Iraq freed nine French nationals on Wednesday and a mediator said Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would consider freeing all Frenchmen if a senior French politician visited Baghdad.
The Frenchmen, released in what Iraq called a humanitarian gesture, were accompanied to Jordan by members of a Franco-Iraqi friendship group which had been visiting Baghdad.
"The Iraqis are willing to consider releasing all French hostages if a top official from the government or the opposition goes to Iraq," Gilles Munier, head of the friendship group, told reporters.
A few hours after the arrival of the French team in Amman, President Francois Mitterrand flew to the Gulf to meet regional leaders and inspect French troops, marking the first visit to the region by a Western leader who has stationed forces there.
An Air France Concorde carrying Mitterrand took off from Charles de Gaulle-Roissy airport for Abu Dhabi shortly after a cabinet meeting Wednesday.
The French leader will meet with rulers of the small Gulf state and inspect the 300-man squadron of the 1st parachute regiment of Hussars sent there in August, the presidential palace confirmed in a communique.
Mitterrand will hold a press conference Thursday aboard the frigate Duplex. He then travels to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd and to inspect French forces at the Red Sea port of Yanbu.
Commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Mitterrand is accompanied by Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, army Chief of Staff General Maurice Schmitt and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.
In Amman, Munier said the release of the Frenchmen, who include three Muslims from Madagascar, was a peace message from Iraq.
Iraq said Mitterrand's four-stage (Continued on page 5)

Israel secures U.S. housing loan guarantee

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy returned to Israel Wednesday with \$400 million in U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant housing but dodged questions about what he had to promise Washington in exchange for the aid.
U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday the loan guarantees were given after Israel gave unprecedented and wide-ranging assurances it would not settle Soviet Jewish newcomers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.
Baker implied that Israel promised for the first time not to settle Soviet Jews in Arab Jerusalem.
Such a commitment would provoke outrage not only in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud party but among the vast majority of Israelis who view Jerusalem as the Jewish state's "indivisible capital."
Asked by a reporter what assurances Israel gave Baker, an indignant Levy said: "Why don't you ask what they requested and what they got? There were demands that were unacceptable and these were rejected outright."
More than 100,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year in a wave of immigration unleashed by free Soviet emigration policy and tighter U.S. immigration quotas. One million Soviets are expected through 1992, swelling Israel's population by a fifth.
"We have no policy of directing new immigrants to (the West Bank and Gaza)," Levy said. "This obligation was given by the prime minister in writing to President Bush."
He added that Israel at times reported to Washington about Jewish settlement activity.
Shamir and hardline Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, both advocates of permanent Israeli control of the occupied territories, pledged in June not to settle Soviet Jews beyond the "green line."
Israel has said immigrants are free to settle wherever they like, but only a small minority of Soviet Jews have joined settlements in the occupied territories.
Israeli newspapers quoted Israeli officials as saying Washington never raised the subject of Arab Jerusalem.
Washington views Arab Jerusalem as occupied territory whose status must be determined in negotiations.
The loan guarantees will enable Israel to raise commercial loans at favourable rates and help the country speed building plans to overcome a housing shortage caused by the mass wave.
Baker said Israel agreed not to offer special incentives to Jews to move to the occupied territories, where many of the nearly 90,000 Jewish settlers have been lured by cheap land, low-interest mortgages and tax incentives.
He added that Israel would provide the United States with information about the financing of settlements and settlement activity in general.
Local media said Israel rejected as an infringement of its "sovereignty" a U.S. demand to be notified in advance of plans to build new settlements or expand existing ones.
"We are in a democratic country not an underground. We do not need any permission whatsoever other than that of the government and the Knesset (parliament)," Levy said.
"But if our friends want to know from time-to-time... they can turn to the foreign ministry and receive information."
The U.S. Congress approved the loan guarantees several weeks ago but President Bush held up final approval, insisting on receiving assurances on the use of the money.

Jordan National Trading Company (L.L.)

Jordan National Paper Converting Company (L.L.)

Welcomes the visit to Jordan
by His Excellency
the Prime Minister of Japan

MR. TOSHIKI KAIFU

and wish him a happy stay
and successful mission
in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

One million may die of starvation in Sudan, UNICEF official warns

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An advancing drought in Sudan could kill up to a million people, and donor countries have not responded to calls by relief agencies for help, a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) official said Tuesday.

"I think we have the makings of a major humanitarian disaster, a bombshell disaster, that hasn't caught the attention of the world," said Richard Reid, UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Four million to five million southern Sudanese are threatened by the drought, which is worse than the one that killed about 250,000 in 1988. Major crop-growing areas have not had rain for more than two months, he said.

"It is probable that unless there is focused and solid and rapid intervention, we could lose at least 250,000, and it could go up to the estimated one million that died in 1984," he said.

Last year, Operation Lifeline Sudan, with UNICEF as the lead agency, saved over 200,000 lives when a similar drought gripped Sudan, but this year few donor countries have been offering help.

Last year, UNICEF collected about \$67 million for the relief

campaign. This year, it has collected less than \$5 million, Reid said.

Diplomats said privately that distaste for the military junta of Omar Hassan Al Bashir, which seized power from the elected government of Sadeq Al Mahdi last year, is a major reason donations have dried up.

U.S. laws cut off foreign aid to military juntas that ousted elected governments.

An ongoing civil war between the Islamic government in Khartoum in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south has cut off the delivery of relief supplies to half the country.

Reid said railroad engineers, barge boatmen, and truck drivers were afraid to carry grain shipments through the southern provinces without security guarantees that relief agencies can't provide.

Last year, Operation Lifeline Sudan had almost 200 truck drivers killed by bandits and rustlers, he said.

The takeover by Bashir created further bureaucratic problems because his military government appointed new officials in key ministries, such as transportation.

Bashir has announced a ceasefire with the guerrillas through

the end of the year so children there can be vaccinated.

Bashir is to meet with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday to discuss the situation. The U.N. secretariat is the lead agency organising Operation Lifeline Sudan.

Last year both the rebels and government suspended hostilities along "corridors of tranquillity" to let over 100,000 tons of food and other supplies reach all parts of the country.

Operation Lifeline Sudan was the first time the participants in a war or rebellion have agreed to suspend hostilities so supplies could reach the civilian population.

Bashir Tuesday announced a three-month ceasefire with the southern rebels so children in his country could be vaccinated and offered to make the truce permanent.

"I have declared a tranquillity period that extends to the end of this year to enable us to safeguard and vaccinate all of our children in the war zone," Bashir told reporters.

"If the rebel movement responds positively, we are ready to declare a permanent ceasefire and proceed with negotiations with a view to achieving a lasting peace," he added.

U.S. Senate backs Bush but makes no commitment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate has expressed overwhelming support for President George Bush's handling of the Gulf crisis so far but senators said they were not giving him a blank cheque to go to war.

The Senate, by a vote of 96-3, passed a resolution approving Bush's role in winning the U.N. economic embargo against Iraq and sending U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf to enforce the embargo and prevent further Iraqi attacks.

The resolution also approved "confined action by the president... to deter Iraqi aggression and to protect American lives and vital interests in the region," but only in accordance with U.N. decisions and congressional approval.

The House of Representatives approved a similar resolution Monday by a vote of 380-39.

But Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell told the Senate: "This resolution is not an authorisation for the use of force, now or in the future."

"This resolution is not a blank cheque," Mitchell said. "This resolution is out a Gulf of Tonkin resolution."

He was referring to a resolution on the Vietnam war that a number of senators and house members said in debates this week must be avoided on the Gulf crisis.

The Tonkin Gulf resolution, approved by Congress on Aug. 7, 1964, authorised presidential action on a reported North Vietnamese attack on two U.S. ships.

Ben Bella organises conference on Gulf crisis

ALGIERS (R) — A week after his return from exile, former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella is organising a pan-Arab conference in Algiers to support the Iraqi people and discuss a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Mohand Ait Hocine, a close associate and leader of the National Liberation Front, when Ben Bella was president from 1962 to 1965, told Reuters the Oct. 11 conference would draw opposition leaders from around the Arab World.

He did not say who planned to attend but added Ben Bella was trying to achieve maximum support from opposition figures and Algerian political parties.

"This will be a meeting of support for the Iraqi people to discuss a peaceful solution," he said. "We must absolutely avoid war. That is what Ben Bella is working for."

Ben Bella, 73, returned from exile last Thursday to launch a political comeback 25 years after he was ousted in a coup.

In his first speech to Algerians since 1965 he urged them to enrol to help defend Iraq in the event of war with the United States. He has called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but only in the context of international talks on all regional problems.

Ait Hocine said Ben Bella was holding his first "discreet" talks with Algerian political leader toward his goal of constituting a "democratic front."

On his return last Thursday Ben Bella called for a restructuring of the political landscape. Nearly 30 parties have been legalised before the first free parliamentary elections set for early next year.

Lebanon criticises 'double standard' in U.N. resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Lebanon said Tuesday there was a "double standard" in applying Security Council resolutions, because while the world body acted swiftly against Iraq, a 12-year-old resolution demanding withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon had never been implemented.

"While recalling all relevant Security Council resolutions... we cannot help but recall once more the situation of Lebanon, which, since 1978, has been the victim of aggression by Israel which also flouts the resolutions of the Security Council," said Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

In an address to the U.N. General Assembly, Hoss repeated Lebanon's support for U.N. sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, outlined in Resolution 661.

But he criticised the world body for failing to implement Resolution 425, demanding an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Israeli forces from Lebanon.

"Resolution 425 has not been implemented for more than 12 years. Furthermore, numerous other resolutions subsequently adopted by the Security Council have met a similar fate," he said.

Hoss urged the world body to impose economic sanctions against Israel, saying "... there must be no double standard of international justice."

He also raised the issue of Palestinian self-determination, calling it the "most rudimentary of human rights," and called on the U.N. to take immediate action against Israel for its occupation of Arab territories.

"The records of the United Nations are replete with resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine. Isn't it time for the international organisation to take decisive and effective measures in order to compel Israel, the aggressor state, to heed its resolutions on this question," he asked.

U.S. sees chance for peaceful resolution in Gulf

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A Bush administration official says "there is still a meaningful and a significant chance for peaceful, diplomatic political solution" to the Gulf crisis.

"But, what I would also say at the same time is that we in Washington do not hold the key to that, Richard Haass, a senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) said Tuesday.

Haass, who is senior director of Near East and South Asia affairs at the NSC, discussed the situation in the Gulf on a U.S. Information Agency Worldnet interview programme with journalists in Damascus, Lahore, Ankara and Jeddah.

Haass said that "if Iraq is willing to reconsider what it's done and Iraq is willing to honour and to listen to the international community, then, yes, there can be a peaceful, diplomatic solution. And that is, again, very much what we'd want."

"But, if Iraq refuses to listen to what the entire world is virtually saying to it, then it's going to be very difficult, indeed, to see how we can settle this, either quickly or peacefully," he added.

"I would really say that the choice is Iraq's, and more specifically, given the nature of their political process, the choice is Saddam's," Haass stressed.

The United States has worked hard with countries in the United Nations, he said, "to build a policy of economic sanctions in order to deny Iraq and Saddam the fruits of their aggression and to try to create a situation where, with time, they would be persuaded to withdraw... to go back home and to allow the legitimate government of Kuwait to once again enjoy its rightful place. That is our policy."

Citing President Bush's remarks at the United Nations General Assembly on October 1, Haass said, "If this doesn't work, or if Iraq forces something else on us, then as we said all along, as the President of the United States said (to the Emir of Kuwait as recently as last Friday (September 28)), we would then have to review our options."

Haass noted that, ironically, out of the tragedy of Kuwait has come the rebirth of the United Nations as an instrument for conflict resolution. "What I think we've seen in the last couple of months is the possibility that for the first time, the United Nations might be approaching a point where (it) can actually begin to avoid conflicts or to settle conflicts that have begun. And that is the great hope," Haass said.

"I think there's universal recognition that Iraq needs to be stopped here. I think, also, a lot of it has to do with the changed policy coming out of the Soviet Union, and I think Moscow deserves a lot of credit for reducing the ideological component of the United Nations."

Acknowledging that it is too soon to draw any hard conclusions about the effectiveness of the United Nations, Haass said, "We're not out of this yet — the test for the United Nations and for the world community is still ongoing — but I would say: So far, so good."

Cyprus: Turkey may be shipping Iraqi oil

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus, stung by "unfair" claims it has failed to enforce the international trade embargo against Iraq, says it suspects rival Turkey of shipping Iraqi oil.

Cypriot officials pointed to the country's nemesis to the north Tuesday as the likely source of a leak in the embargo after arresting the captain and two crew members of a tanker on suspicion of trying to ship Iraqi oil to Lebanon.

A police prosecutor said at a court hearing on the case Tuesday that samples of the crude oil aboard the tanker Fiona have been sent to Britain to determine whether it is of Iraqi origin.

"Needless to say, if the oil proves to be Iraqi it will be clear that it is Turkey which violates the embargo and allows its ports to be used to ship Iraqi oil to the world market," government spokesman Akis Fantis said.

The Honduran-flag Tanker, owned by a Lebanese company, loaded about 13,000 barrels of oil on Aug. 24 at Turkey's southern port of Dort Yul, Cypriot authorities said.

That is the Mediterranean terminal of an Iraqi oil pipeline that runs across Turkey. Ankara closed that pipeline soon after the U.N. embargo was announced on Aug. 6.

The Fiona's cargo was destined for the Lebanese port of Jounieh. But the tanker was forced to flee Jounieh, north of Beirut, when it was hit by gunfire and damaged during fighting between rival Lebanese militias, according to the police prosecutor Lambros Soteriades, who presented the government's case.

The Fiona arrived at the Cypriot port of Larnaca Sept. 24 for repairs with a metre-wide hole in its hull. Authorities moved in after receiving a tip the ship contained oil from Iraq. Soteriades said.

Captain Ibrahim Al Rafi, First Officer Aboud Abboud and engineer Antoine Bon Saade were ordered held in custody for eight days by a court in Larnaca Tuesday pending a police investigation into the origin of the cargo of crude.

They are believed to be the first seamen arrested since the U.N. Security Council imposed the embargo four days after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Defence lawyer Francis Kyriakides told the court the ship carried cargo on transit and that there was no connection with Cyprus.

But Fantis said the captain failed to show the court the certificate of origin for his cargo and had only the certificate of quality issued Aug. 22 at Dort Yul.

Fantis said Cyprus was unfairly accused in various press reports of being one of the countries violating the embargo.

"On the contrary, by its stand the Cyprus government proves that it fully enforces the embargo and is determined to impose a taking legal action against those violating it," he said.

There is no love lost between the Greek Cypriots and Turkey. Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in July 1974 to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority following an Athens-backed coup by Greek Cypriot extremists seeking union with Greece.

Cyprus has remained divided since, despite a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding the abrogation of the establishment of the breakaway state in the north, recognised only by Turkey.

Since the invasion of Kuwait, the Greek Cypriots have often decried the fact that those U.N. resolutions have not received the same backing as the resolutions demanding Iraq's withdrawal from its Gulf neighbour.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt says 'saboteurs' held

CAIRO (AP) — A number of Arab saboteurs sent to Egypt following its opposition to the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have been arrested, Egypt's top security official said. Interior Minister Abdul Halim Musa said the saboteurs were arrested before going into action. He said they belonged to three unnamed Arab groups. In a statement in the state-owned newspaper Al Gomhouriya, Musa said weapons and ammunition were found in their possession but gave no further details. But the newspaper said the saboteurs were arrested in Cairo and Alexandria. Al Wafd newspaper, organ of an opposition party with the same name, said Tuesday the saboteurs are Palestinians and Iraqis. It said they are members of an Iraqi organisation run by the Iraqi ruling Baath Party. Musa however said without elaboration that the rate of political crimes, particularly that of Muslim fundamentalists, has dropped following the Gulf crisis because of the lack of financial support from abroad. He gave no figures. In another statement in Al Ahran, another state-owned daily, Musa said there are currently 670 Muslim extremists among 1,554 Egyptian detainees in Egyptian prisons. Musa told Al Ahran that the other 884 were detained for involvement in drug smuggling and dealing illegally in hard currency. An emergency law in force since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat Oct. 6, 1981 gives the government exceptional powers in detaining people without judicial authorisation.

Rocket barrage kills 25 in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A barrage of rockets battered the Afghan capital Tuesday killing 25 people and wounding 22 others, Radio Kabul said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but the radio broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, blamed U.S.-backed insurgents. According to the report, most of the people were killed when a rocket hit a central coal distribution centre where people were stocking up with fuel for the winter. The radio report could not be independently confirmed.

Spanish crown prince to visit Gulf

MADRID (R) — Spain's Crown Prince Felipe de Borbon will travel to the Gulf Friday to boost the morale of sailors on Spanish warships there, a palace spokesman said Wednesday. Prince Felipe, 22, and Defence Minister Maris Serra will visit the frigate Santa Maria off Abu Dhabi and one of two Spanish Corvettes patrolling the Red Sea at Hurgada to enforce sanctions against Iraq. They will also meet the United Arab Emirates president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, before returning to Spain Sunday. The prince, a graduate of the Marine Naval Academy, has said he looks forward to visiting warships where some of his former class members are serving.

U.S. minesweepers arrive in Gulf

DHAHRAN (R) — Four U.S. minesweepers arrived in the Gulf Tuesday, the U.S. navy said. A navy spokesman said the minesweepers, Adroit, Leader, Impervious and Avenger, which were carried to the waterway by the Dutch heavy lift ship Super Servant III, were due to begin operating immediately. The American aircraft carrier Independence also arrived in the Gulf Tuesday.

Omani deputy premier flies to Moscow

NICOSIA (R) — Oman's deputy premier minister for financial and economic affairs left for Moscow Wednesday, the Omani News Agency reported. It said Qais Ben Abdul Monim Al Zawawi would discuss bilateral relations with Soviet officials. The official will deliver a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the agency, received in Cyprus, added.

Syria says Israel's occupation contradicts new world order

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Syria foreign minister told the United Nations Tuesday that Israel's occupation of Arab territories contradicted a new world order condemning aggression, which has emerged following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"It is a contradiction in terms that Israel, which claims to desire peace, itself rejects a conference for peace in the Middle East, which the world community has been calling for under the auspices of the United Nations for the last decade," said Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, in an address to the General Assembly.

Sharaa condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, saying it had been fraudulently conducted under the slogan of pan-Arabism and provided an excuse for the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf.

Calling for unconditional withdrawal by Iraq, he said: "The invasion had harmed the Arab Nation as a whole, for the invasion of Kuwait has aggravated the weakness of the nation, divided its ranks and undermined its prestige."

But he drew a strong parallel between Iraq's behaviour and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the presence of Israeli forces in Lebanon.

"Syria, who did not hesitate to condemn the occupation and annexation of an Arab country by another Arab country, expects from the world under the new

international atmosphere, to stand firm against the Israeli occupation of Arablands and Sharaa.

"The rejection of occupation and annexation is a principle that should be respected and applied in all cases, whoever the aggressor might be and whosever the occupied territories could be, for such a principle has to be at the core of the new world order," he said.

Sharaa called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which encompass a land-for-peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Resolution 425, which demands Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Syria said Wednesday that Arabs should take a lead from German unification, which took effect from midnight Tuesday, was a result of the new world order which followed the end of the cold war between the superpowers.

"This unity should encourage the world people to achieve their national unity especially the Arab Nation which had previously established such types as the unity between Syria and Egypt," it said.

"This unity was faced with conspiracies as part of the cold war which prevailed in the world and the policies of alliances which destroyed the people's aspirations for freedom and unity."

REQUIEM MASS (The third, the ninth and 40th) For the late

Farid Khalaf Al Nshewiat (Abu Maurice)

at 12 noon Friday Oct. 5, 1990 at the Greek Catholic Church, Jabal Amman.

The relatives of the late Mr. Al-Nshewiat, invite friends and acquaintances to attend the mass.

This is an invitation to all.

MAY GOD BLESS HIS SOUL

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE	15:30	Koran
15:40	Children programme	
15:45	Children programme	
15:50	Book of Adventure	
16:00	News summary	
16:10	Local programme	
16:15	Programme review	
16:20	News in Arabic	
16:30	Local news	
16:40	Local programme	
16:45	Arabic film	
16:50	News in Arabic	
PROGRAMME TWO	18:10	Mollisismo
18:40	Des Chiffres et de lettres	
19:15	News in French	
19:20	Documentary	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
19:45	Varieties	
20:00	News in Arabic	
21:10	Pride and Prejudice	
22:00	News in English	
22:20	Feature film	

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625983, Tel. 626543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772061.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Armenian International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

PRAYER TIMES

04:10	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:24	Dhuhr
14:46	'Asr
17:22	Maghrib
18:39	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Sulaiman Al Khayyat	791880

Dr. Saleh Ali Zayed	790677
Dr. Youssef Rashed	896301
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala	696048
First pharmacy	661912
Al Asema pharmacy	778336
Natroukhi pharmacy	626672
Al Selen pharmacy	636730
Youssef pharmacy	644945
Shoeban pharmacy	637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630441
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176

Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897447
Armenian Ministry	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	64421/6
Aldik Maternity, J. Amn.	64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	66471/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845945
Al-Musabir Hospital	66722/7
The Islamic, Abdali	66612/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6

Italian, Al-Musabir	777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashraf	77511/26
Army, Marfa	89161/5
Queen Alia Hospital	62240/30
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(02)783323
Zarqa National Hospital	(02)791071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(02)786732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)725555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)722725
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)747100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:15	Riyadh (RJ)

18:30	New Delhi (RJ)
18:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:45	Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
18:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:15	Larnaca (RJ)
19:20	London (RJ)
19:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
19:30	Beirut, Casablanca (RJ)
19:45	Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
11:10	Frankfurt (LH)
14:40	Riyadh (SV)
14:40	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
17:20	Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
17:30	Dubai (EK)
18:50	Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	650 / 430
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beans	350 / 300
Cabbage	160 / 120
Carrot	250 / 200
Corn	160 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	90 / 60
Cucumbers (small)	150 / 100
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplant	200 / 150
Figs	400 / 250
Garlic	800 / 700
Grapes	300 / 250
Lemon	220 / 150
Mallow	100 / 80
Marrow (large)	220 / 180
Marrow (small)	220 / 180
Onion (dry)	200 / 150
Orange	550 / 500
Okra	600 / 500
Pear	600 / 500
Pepper (hot)	250 / 200

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE	15:30	Koran
15:40	Children programme	
15:45	Children programme	
15:50	Book of Adventure	
16:00	News summary	
16:10	Local programme	
16:15	Programme review	
16:20	News in Arabic	
16:30	Local news	
16:40	Local programme	
16:45	Arabic film	
16:50	News in Arabic	
17:10	Pride and Prejudice	
18:00	News in English	
18:20	Feature film	

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10	Mollisismo
18:40	Des Chiffres et de lettres
19:15	News in French
19:20	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
21:10	Pride and Prejudice
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

04:11	Fajr
05:28	(Sunrise) Dhuhr</

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka thanks Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a letter of appreciation and thanks from Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa for the care Sri Lankan nationals have received while passing through Jordan on their way home from Iraq and Kuwait. Premadasa thanked the Jordanian government for its role in alleviating the suffering of the evacuees and wished that His Majesty conveys his appreciation and thanks to all the Jordanian people. The letter was conveyed by the Sri Lankan minister of Labour who was received by the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh at the Royal Court.

Parliamentarians to form new bloc

AMMAN (Petra) — A new Lower House of Parliament bloc will be announced in a short period of time under the name of the Liberals Bloc, informed sources said Wednesday. The sources said the new bloc will include deputies Issa Al Rimoni, Ahmad Inab, Jamal Khreisha, Saad Haddadin, Mohammad Abu Alim and Jamal Haddadin. The bloc will hold a meeting within the coming few days after completing consultations with several parliamentarians to prepare a final formula that will include the goals and principles of the bloc, the sources said. The members expected to join the bloc were members of the House's National Bloc which seems to have an inside rift.

Al Salt rally backs Iraqis

SALT (Petra) — Al Salt popular committee for the support of Iraq Tuesday organised a public rally to express solidarity with the Iraqi people. Speakers at the rally included Dr. Issa Midanat, Dr. Abdullah Alkayeh, Dr. Hammad Saeed among others. The speakers stressed the need for unifying the ranks of Arab people to confront foreign intervention in the region and the economic siege imposed on Iraq. They also called on Muslims to abide by the regulations of their religion and learn from the teachings of Prophet Mohammad. They affirmed that Iraq is not standing alone in the battlefield and that it would be backed by all the nobles in the area extending from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

Japanese delegation leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — A Japanese parliamentary delegation Wednesday left Amman for Baghdad after a two-day visit to Jordan during which it was received by speakers and several members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Senator Husni Ayyesh and several officials.

Jordanians flock to file for losses in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's employment office in Amman Wednesday continued to receive hundreds of claims for losses incurred by Jordanians who have been working in Kuwait.

The Ministry of Labour had invited Jordanians who incurred material or financial losses, as a result of the Iraqi takeover, to register at its offices in Jordan so that they can preserve their rights and also be entitled to social security benefits.

Economists estimate that Jordanians who worked in Kuwait have lost between \$4 billion and \$5 billion in abandoned savings, investments, property and wages.

At least 40,000 Jordanian workers in Kuwait are believed to have returned home with their families since the invasion.

About 150,000 Jordanians, mostly Palestinians, were working in Kuwait at the time of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. More than 600,000 Jordanians were believed to be working in other Gulf countries — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

"About 1,000 people reported their claims to the ministry today," said Saleh Al Khasawneh, the ministry's secretary general.

The step is intended by the government to protect rights and interests of citizens."

He said the government has not put a time limit on filing the claims.

NAF gives increased assistance

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has extended JD 18,971 financial aid to 846 families in the last three months, NAF sources said. The sources added that the fund offered urgent assistance of JD 1,080 to 24 cases in the same period.

The sources said the fund also financed in the same period 134 vocational rehabilitation projects for the amount of JD 157,418 as well as 34 physical rehabilitation cases which cost the fund JD 676.

According to the sources, the number of cases that received financial assistance during the first half of 1990 reached 1,286 for a sum of JD 2,500,337, while the number of cases getting urgent assistance in the same period reached 41 receiving assistance of JD 4,920.

NAF financed during the same period 121 vocational training projects for JD 107,030 and 26 physical rehabilitation cases which cost JD 7,324.

Symposium issues recommendations on water pollution

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Participants and organisers of an environmental pollution symposium dealing specifically with water pollution problems entitled "Water Pollution in Jordan: Causes and Effects" drew up the final recommendations of the one-day conference.

Both Jordanian and German environmental and water experts participated in drawing up the draft resolutions.

While water problems in the region are becoming more acute, other nations have been able to systematically deal with their water problems, Jordanian participants told their German counterparts during the seminar.

The final draft listed recommendations to be followed by Jordan to protect its water resources and keep them clean.

The major recommendations were:

— The prevention of water pollution must begin at the source and must take into account the environment throughout all steps of water extraction.

— Adherence to specified requirements for safe extraction must be regularly and adequately checked by users (self check) and monitored by the authorities (state supervision).

— Strict requirements must be placed on discharges into a body of water, regardless of the quality of the body of water — this includes discharges into inland

water and coastal waters.

— More extensive requirements on waste water discharges, even leading to prohibition in certain cases, are to be practiced when the protection of the body of water or its use requires these measures.

— The water quality must be monitored regularly by representative and internationally comparable measurements of suitable chemical, physical, and biological characteristics, and by means of key quality parameters, those with an integral function, and effective biological criteria, using a sufficiently dense network of measurement stations.

— Streams, rivers, and lakes, including river banks, must be preserved in a natural state or remodelled to make them more natural.

— Ground water may be extracted only when extractions have no adverse effect on the water table and fauna, and unless otherwise demanded by prevailing needs of the common good, or of the individual where they are in keeping with the common good.

— Ground water must be protected by preventive measures which satisfy the basic principle of concern and tackle the threats at source. Drinking-water extraction areas and other sensitive areas must be identified as such, and be subject to special requirements of protection.

— The quality of ground water must be checked systematically and assessed over a country as a whole.

Only 21% of Jordanian drivers use seat belts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-day survey conducted by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) of Jordan revealed that only 21 per cent of drivers in the Kingdom use seat belts in violation of traffic regulations which entails paying fines.

A report about the survey said that the use of seat belts by drivers and front seat passengers of cars and light commercial vehicles had been steadily declining.

The original legislation that required the use of seat belts was introduced in 1983 but was allowed to lapse after only a short time, the report said. The regulations were reintroduced early in 1987 and are still in force, it added.

However, it is clear that there is a blatant abuse of the regulations by drivers and passengers coupled with a lack of enforcement by the concerned authority, the report pointed out.

The RAC said that it had to carry out the field survey in order to ascertain how many drivers were complying with the law at the present time.

To conduct the survey, the report said, the RAC elected a number of locations in urban and rural areas of Jordan to observe traffic flow and to count the numbers of drivers of cars and pickup trucks who were using the seat belts. The locations reflected traffic movement in all conditions at different times of the day and covered residential, commercial and industrial districts on main and secondary roads in urban and rural areas.

According to the survey conducted last month, a total of 7,738 vehicles were recorded and it was found that only 1,674 drivers used seat belts.

Females driving private cars accounted for the largest sector of those motorists who failed to use seat belts, followed by taxi drivers.

The report said that the vast majority of drivers failed to appreciate the importance of safety aspects from the proper usage of seat belts and continued to expose themselves to the risk of injury in the event of an accident which would otherwise be minimised if seat belts were used.

Jordan and Italy hold economic discussions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Italian Ambassador to Jordan, Francesco de Corman, Wednesday led a team of Italian foreign ministry officials for talks with Jordanian counterparts on Italy's technical and financial assistance to Jordan.

The talks, conducted with a team from the Ministry of Planning led by Secretary-General Safwan Touqan, also reviewed projects that would be financed through the projected aid, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the two sides discussed Jordan's urgent needs of food supplies in the light of the current circumstances in the region and priorities for

Jordanian projects.

The talks came on the heel of a visit to Jordan by Italian Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli, who said that Jordan has requested the European Community (EC) to differentiate between aid for Jordan and aid for the evacuees when considering the allocations of \$2 billion aid and soft loan package of which the Kingdom is one of the beneficiaries.

The 12 EC member states have been discussing allocations for Jordan, Turkey and Egypt after it proposed an aid package to the three countries to help them cope with the adverse economic effects from the Gulf crisis.

Touqan explained to the Italian team the present economic conditions in Jordan and their adverse impact on the national economy as a result of Jordan's implementation of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

He said that Jordan was in dire need for assistance to both the private and the public sectors.

According to Petra, the Italian side voiced understanding of the general conditions in Jordan and the negative effects on the country resulting from the Gulf crisis. Before the meeting, the Italian team toured a number of economic organisations and held talks with Jordanian private and public sector officials.

Muslim Brotherhood sees tough work for government, parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The official spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood in the Lower House of Parliament, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat believes that the postponement of the opening of the House's ordinary session until Nov. 17 would give the government sufficient time to deal with a number of procedural matters that became imperative as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Arabiyat said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the postponement would also allow the Council of Ministers time to find ways to prepare for the 1991 fiscal budget.

Last week, a Royal Decree was issued postponing the opening of the ordinary session from Oct. 1 to Nov. 17. No reason was given for the postponement.

According to Arabiyat, who had nominated himself on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood for the House's speakership, the group seeks to form a broad front grouping all factions so as to

enhance the process of mobilising the country's potential to confront the current situation in the region.

The Lower House entering the second year of its term, should start a new stage of action as the true representative of the people and as the monitor of the executive authority's action, Arabiyat said.

The House's incumbent speaker, Suleiman Arar, is seeking a second term and at least two other deputies, Laith Shbeilat and Atef Betoush, have nominated themselves for the post.

Various Parliament blocs were reported holding intensive consultations to nominate their candidates or to come to a consensus on the choice of a new speaker.

The Lower House members, who were elected last November, ended their ordinary session March 27 and later convened in an extraordinary session which

ended in September.

In a late Wednesday announcement, Parliament Deputy Jamal Khreisha nominated himself as a candidate for the House's speakership on behalf of the National Bloc in Parliament.

At the Upper House, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a meeting Wednesday to discuss the Gulf crisis and its adverse effects on Jordan resulting from the implementation of the U.N. Security Council sanctions on Iraq.

According to the committee's rapporteur, Hamad Al Farhan, the committee also discussed the consequences of a Saudi Arabian ban on Gulf bound Jordanian trucks and the general economic conditions in Jordan.

Al Farhan said that the committee has recommended to the government to raise the subject of Soviet-Israeli relations at the upcoming Arab foreign ministers meeting.

UNDRO coordinator to review relief operation

AMMAN (Agencies) — The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) Coordinator Under-Secretary General Issaafi was due in here Wednesday to review with the Jordanian government and United Nations agencies relief efforts for displaced persons in Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis.

His visit to the Kingdom comes amid criticism from a senior Indian official at lack of donations from Western governments.

Since September, UNDRO has mobilised \$35 million mainly from Japanese contributions.

The office of the U.N. Disaster

Relief Coordinator appealed Wednesday for an additional \$5.5 million to cover immediate transport costs for evacuees in Jordan.

UNDRO, which is overseeing relief efforts, said it also urgently needed \$1 million to pay for food and shelter for desperate Asians crossing from Iraq into Iran.

A statement said that of nearly \$34 million promised to UNDRO by the end of last week, only the Japanese government had paid in full. Tokyo has given \$20 million to the U.N. agency.

Pledged donations from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the United States

were outstanding, according to the statement distributed at a special meeting attended by diplomats and relief agencies in Geneva.

"The number of donor countries seems remarkably small," said Prabhu Dayal, first secretary at the Indian embassy in Geneva. "Even more tragic is that most contributions remain unpaid," he told the meeting.

The figures do not include money given to other relief organisations or material donations. Dayal said Indian resources were fully stretched after paying to fly 69,000 of its own nationals,

Andalus camp blends hope, despair of Asian evacuees returning home

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first impression one gets at the Andalus evacuee camp is lines. The 300 tents neatly lined on the dirt ground, the evacuees lined up to get their rice, bread and yoghurt meal, washed clothes lined on the ropes of tents, and the longest line that carries the most hope... the line that leads home.

Looking exhausted, yet joyous, Asian evacuees lined up with their luggage to board the air-conditioned buses heading for the airport where they would finally board the aircraft to return to their countries after weeks of surviving the deserts of Jordan.

The Andalus evacuee camp is the final transit point before their return home.

The majority of the Asians, mostly Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Indians, lived in this camp for one or two days after coming from the Azraq camps near the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

For many, it was a "five-star" camp, as one Bangladeshi described it, comparing it with the Azraq camps in the middle of the Jordanian desert where they waited sometimes for weeks before their turns came up to fly home.

The nearest Asian refugee camp to Amman and the closer to

Queen Alia International Airport, the Andalus at midday witnessed excited faces anxious to board the buses that would take them to the airport. Whether or not this feeling of joy for going back to their countries as soon as possible would last is unknown.

Jordan said Tuesday that it would be unable to finance the transport of Asians in the financially-strained Kingdom. Unless the payment for transporting them was fulfilled, the evacuees could be stranded for longer weeks to come.

For the time being, having left their jobs in Kuwait and having spent weeks of waiting at other camps, the evacuees did not seem to care much anymore at the Andalus.

Wackaram Pausocli, a Sri Lankan who worked in Kuwait as a housemaid, lived through 16 days at an Azraq camp and less than 24 hours at the Andalus.

Asked if she had a difficult time at the camps, she replied: "Never mind. Today I go back to Sri Lanka."

Although the Andalus was neatly organised and obvious hard effort was put into the camp's various facilities by Jordanian officials, messiness was evident.

Large trash bins were lined up all around the camp, but empty bottles, cans, uneaten food and

plastic containers littered the grounds. Zinc-roofed latrines were placed near the highway road where the smell of urine was mixed with the smell of cooked rice and vegetables. Water tanks with faucets also lined the highway as the evacuees filled their empty plastic containers or poured water over their bodies that were covered with colourfully-printed material.

The cleanest part of the camp was the shower rooms that were especially built with cement blocks and covered with green plastic curtains. They had been built for the women, according to an official at the camp, but have been untouched. The ladies preferred to bathe themselves from the water tanks near the road while fully-dressed, he said.

It appeared as though the sandstorms that hit the Kingdom late last week had left their mark. The tops of the tents seemed brown at first sight, but at a closer look, one knows that they were originally white.

The number of evacuees fluctuates daily between 2,000 to 3,000 depending on the number of those who depart, according to

deputy director of the camp, Barakat Abbadi.

He said that the camp, which was set up Aug. 28 to shelter a maximum of 3,000 if 10 are kept in each tent, witnessed up to 6,000 Asians in one day.

The Jordanian government said last Saturday that it was facing serious financial difficulties in providing the basic facilities for the evacuees, and said it would not be able to continue with its work unless the money it spent was settled with the international community.

Jordan said that although the government was promised \$100 million for the evacuees, only \$1.7 million was received.

To fill time, men walked around the camp aimlessly, slept or just sat around in the donated blue tents talking or playing cards. The women washed their clothes and they did not seem to run out of subjects to talk about.

The evacuees here knew that they did not have to wait so long before their return home. There were those, however, who dreaded the idea of facing uncertain futures in their war-torn countries.

Mark On Your Calendar! EXHIBITION

of fine handicrafts • weavings • quilts by

Bani Hamida
12 - 19 October, 1990
10 am - 9 pm

At the Abu Jaber Estate-Yadoudeh
(adjacent to Kan Zaman, off airport highway)

Save the Children project

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosebath (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabel Amman.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artists Maha and Ahmad Al Syoof at the Royal Cultural Centre.

T. GARGOUR & FILS

WELCOMES

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TOSHIKI KAIFU

PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN



AND WISHES HIM A

HAPPY STAY IN JORDAN

GENERAL AGENTS IN JORDAN FOR :-

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd.

TOKYO MARINE CO. LTD.,

TCM TOYO UMPANKI CO. LTD.,

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667117/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

New offer by Iraq

DURING the extraordinary Arab summit conference which was held in Baghdad at the end of May this year, the Egyptian president, Mr. Hosni Mubarak, submitted a proposal for a Middle East treaty banning all mass destructive weapons in the region. The summit rejected the proposal, simply because a) Egypt had not consulted other Arab countries on the idea before-hand; b) such a treaty, to which Israel had to be a signatory, would have forced the Arabs to negotiate with their enemy on a matter other than the central problem, which is Palestine, thus diverting attention from that real issue and according Israel untimely recognition; and c) Iraq thought at the time that such a treaty would have removed from its hand a strong deterrent, in the form of its chemical and biological weapons, against potential Israeli aggression and designs.

All of that happened well before the invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent peace and war scenarios and plans which have made the question of scrapping Iraq's mass destructive (and other) weapons a matter of profound concern to the international community.

In the dramatic turn of events since then, however, Baghdad on Tuesday decided to take up that challenge anew and offered to free the whole Middle East from mass destructive weapons in the context of a regional agreement that would eliminate its chemical and biological arsenal provided that Israel's nuclear weapons are included in any such package deal.

This is indeed a new and solid offer that cannot and should not be dismissed by anybody. It is the last stage of French President Francois Mitterrand's peace plan for the Gulf and the Middle East which has shot up to prominence by the Iraqi offer.

Let people forget it is Israel which has been stockpiling nuclear weapons for many years now. What the Iraqis are in effect telling the world is that international concern for the introduction of mass destructive weapons to this region should have been expressed and acted upon the day Israel started its nuclear programme. But be that as it may, time is still propitious to outlaw those weapons provided that the international community gets Israel to relinquish its monopoly on the possession of mass destructive weapons. If the West and Tel Aviv do not act now, it will be dubious at best to expect the proliferation of such armaments to step any time soon.

The first order of business in this vein is to have all the countries of the Middle East ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Israel has not done that to date although Iraq did. Secondly, the experiences of the superpowers on verification need to be put at the disposal of the concerned parties in the area. A regional United Nations agency for instance can be created for this purpose to monitor the faithful observance of a regional agreement to this effect. This objective need not await the resolution of the conflicts of the region although that would be the ideal solution. It can be initiated right away as it surely would be a long and tortuous process. Tel Aviv can at least declare its readiness to dismantle its nuclear arsenal in return for a commitment by the Arabs to destroy their mass destructive weapons and foresees any military nuclear programme.

Goodwill begets goodwill, U.S. President George Bush always maintained. (Before the Gulf crisis, that is) let him try this one.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday focused attention on the fact that the United States was massing troops in the Gulf and waging war on the Arabs with the purpose of laying its hands on the oil wealth with which it could strangle the economies of united Europe and Japan. For Bush, a victory in the Gulf would naturally boost his stance in the coming elections, and for Israel such victory could mean complete hegemony on the Arabs and their destiny, said the paper. But this war could be the last for the Arabs; and therefore, they must come out victorious since they must defend their national interests and their soil and holy shrines, and since they want to protect the future generations from colonial rule, the paper noted. It said that Washington and London are no more concealing their real objective, and they are openly saying that it is for the sake of protecting Western interests. They have succeeded till now to draw a wedge among the Arab countries, and divide their states; and succeeded also in transforming an Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis into an Arab colonial conflict, the paper continued. Furthermore, the colonial powers have succeeded in obtaining U.N. Security Council resolutions to impose sanctions on Iraq to pave the way for an armed conflict which they hope will revive the old imperialist era and ensure foreign domination over the Arabs, the paper noted. But, it said, Iraq is gearing up for a final battle which could be the last battle to thwart the colonial powers' ambitious designs in our region.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday calls on the concerned authorities to arrange for the surplus vegetables and fruits in Jordan to be processed and kept for later use of export. Nazih says the Ministry of Agriculture has now re-opened Al Arida tomato paste processing plant which has a daily capacity of 350 tonnes of tomatoes in order to absorb surpluses now found in the market. The writer notes that the step came in view of the ban imposed by Saudi Arabia on all Jordanian trucks carrying fruits and vegetables to its markets or those of the Gulf countries, thus leaving a great deal of tomatoes and other crops in surplus for the market in Jordan. There is no doubt that the processing plant can absorb a large amount of the surplus tomatoes, and so reduce the losses incurred by farmers as a result of the Saudi Arabian measure, the writer adds. But, he says, there is a good chance for the surplus fruits and other vegetables to be also processed in Jordan so that farmers' losses can be reduced and to enable the country to export the crops in their preserved forms, fetching a higher price abroad.

Lest the stars outshine the rising sun

By Rami G. Khouri

JAPANESE Prime Minister Kaifu this week visits a Middle East which is badly split over how to resolve the conflict in Kuwait, and where anti-Western sentiment is at fever pitch in many Arab countries where people can express themselves freely. He should appreciate the historical reasons for this, so that Japan, the world's newest superpower, could avoid repeating the mistakes which the French, British and Americans have made in our region.

We all reject the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait, and wish to implement Security Council resolutions to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait, on the basis of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. The split in the Arab World is between those who favour the military protection and deterrent power of Western armies, and those who see Western military and political interference in the Middle East as a root cause of many of our problems, our failures and our frustrations today.

While the West views the

conflict over Kuwait as a battle over the application of the "rule of law" and Security Council resolutions in the new post-cold war world, we recall that for decades the world has ignored scores of other, equally binding, U.S. resolutions on Palestine and Israeli-occupied territories in Lebanon and Syria. Frustration borne of this fact has fuelled Arab forces which see massive Western militarism as the latest example of the single most persistent and destructive threat of the last century—the tradition of Western superpower manipulation of our borders, our people, our natural resources, our political alliances, and our will to live in liberty and dignity.

Examples of Western interference in our affairs include the initial artificial border demarcations of many Arab states which the British and the French imposed on us in the first half of this century, in order to maintain their colonial interests in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia; duplicitous British promises of Arab independence dur-

ing World War I, when the British and the French were secretly working behind our backs to promise the Zionists a Jewish homeland in Palestine and to carve up the region into zones of British and French influence; the British and American record of maintaining Israeli dominance over the combined forces of the Arabs; British, French, American and Israeli efforts to crush Jamal Abdul Nasser's promise of developing Egypt as the spearhead of a politically united and strong Arab World that was free of Western interference; and overall Western acquiescence in Israel's occupation of Arab lands in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, compared to the West's vehement reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait and Iraq are transitory catalysts. The deeper underlying Arab sentiment that has been unleashed by this crisis is about whether the unteachable post-colonial order which the British and French left us after World War I should continue — an Arab order characterised by individual and collective failures of

our artificial and unnatural countries; by inordinate disparities of resource wealth and population which primarily reflect the commercial and political interests of the West; by the frustrations and humiliations of long-term Israeli occupation of Arab lands; by the continued disenfranchisement of five million Palestinians; and by the lack of opportunities of free expression and political participation for hundreds of millions of Arabs who are fed up with living in undemocratic societies which have been unable to integrate their resources according to the deeper pan-Arab sentiment of the peoples of our region.

Unburdened by the legacy of French, British, American and Israeli colonialism in the Middle East, Japan can set a new standard of political morality for the region — and for the world. Re-engaging as it is in global affairs, Japan should affirm that international zealotry in applying Security Council resolutions in Kuwait, while the world apparently remains indifferent to the ap-

plication of equally mandatory U.N. resolutions in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, will only generate further Arab anger, mistrust, resentment, tension and regional conflicts. If Japan allows itself to become the silent, backroom financier and shipping agent of the West's neo-colonial and neo-imperial interests in the Arab World, it could generate its own legacy of distrust and hatred among 200 million Arabs — Arabs who should be Japan's natural partners in global economic expansion, prosperity and genuine stability.

Japan should not be made to pay protection money or make guilt payments for the mistakes of the West in the Middle East. Rather, Japanese aid to the region should help spur fresh international diplomacy to resolve all the root political, social and economic causes of instability in the Middle East — arguing that this is the only true guarantor of lasting peace, genuine stability and global cooperation and well-being.

Specifically, Japan could support French President Mit-

terrand's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East that would hold out the promise of justice in Palestine as well as in Kuwait. Or it could target aid to Palestine and Lebanon; in order to help Israel and the United States appreciate that lasting stability in the Gulf can only be achieved when all Middle Eastern people achieve national aspirations and dignity, and not only those who can muster political clout in Washington and London.

This is the humane model which Japan could offer the world in terms of appropriate and internationally acceptable superpower behaviour — in the closing years of a century which has seen hundreds of millions of people suffer at the hands of superpower behaviour that has usually been predatory, self-centered and militaristic.

Rami Khouri contributed the above article as a Guest Column for this week's Japanese edition of Newsweek magazine.

Understanding U.S. congressional support for the Jewish state

By Parker L. Payson

WITH U.S. congressional elections just a few weeks away, President George Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have canvassed the country in support of Republican candidates for Congress. At the same time, Democrats have blasted the president and his supporters for their calls to cut the capital-gains tax, slow cuts in defence spending and outlaw abortion. On these issues, most candidates are split down party lines. On one issue in Congress, however, there is near unanimity: unquestionable support for Israel. Because, according to one congressional aid, "congressman who does not pledge allegiance to Israel will find themselves looking for a new job."

Five letters can explain this power: "AIPAC." AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a group that lobbies Congress to pass legislation in favour of Israel. AIPAC has been so successful that former speaker of the House of Representatives Tip O'Neill calls it "as effective an operation as there is in Washington."

Through a nationwide network of local support groups, AIPAC can swamp a congressman's desk with hundreds of letters from constituents within days. Because of AIPAC's helpers on Capitol Hill, pro-Israeli letters often reach lawmakers even before legislation does.

Where the buck stops

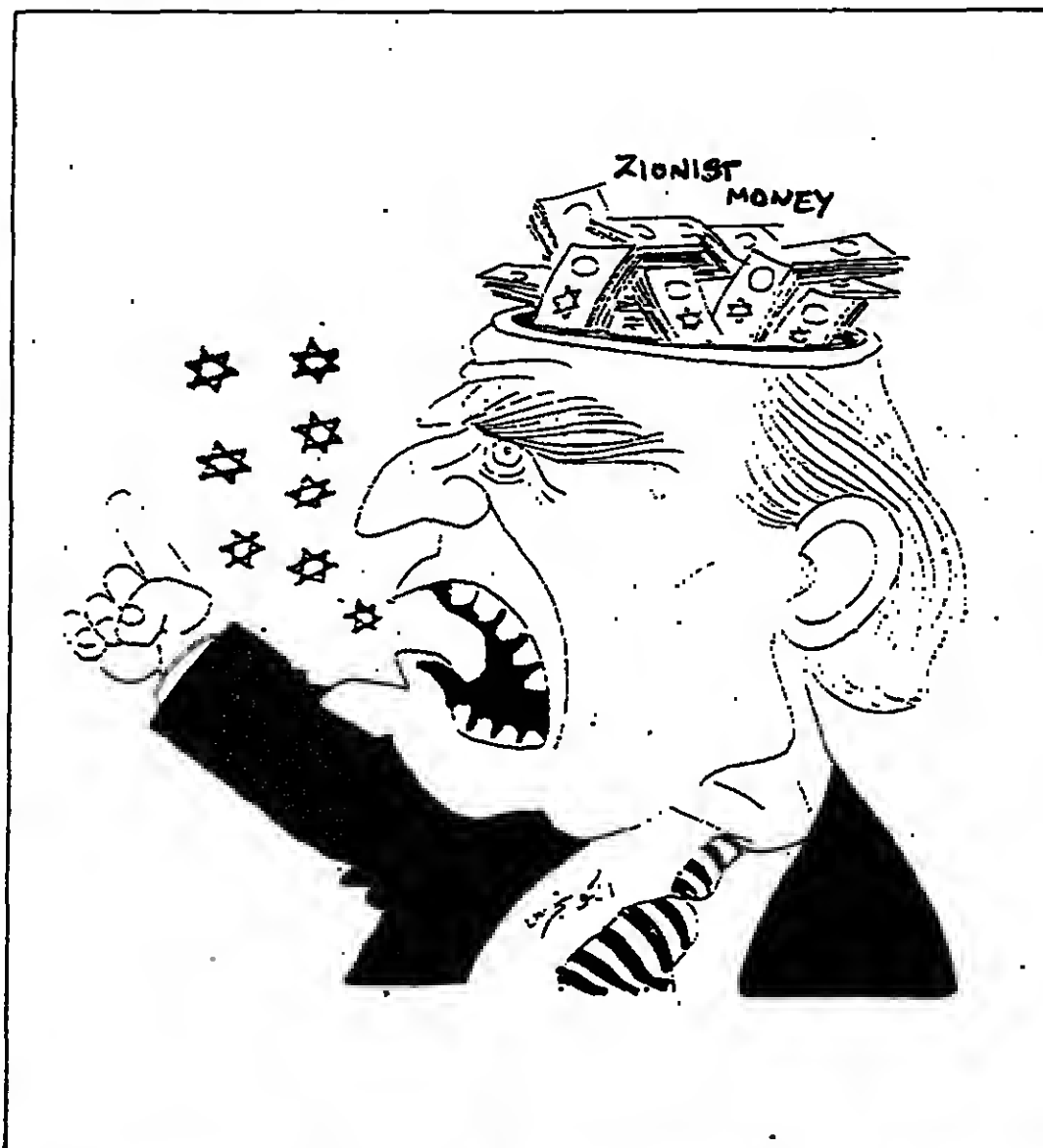
The real source of AIPAC's power, though, lies in its ability to marshal financial backing to members of Congress who support Israel and unleash misery on those who don't. The pro-Israel lobby has spent over \$19.8 million since 1978 on congressional candidates, and as of June 30, 1990, raised over \$6.5 million and spent over \$2.8 million for the 1990 elections.

Because federal law prohibits a registered lobby from making campaign contributions, AIPAC, itself, cannot give money to candidates. Instead, money is funnelled out by a network of pro-Israel PACs, or political action committees, who look to AIPAC for guidance.

By law, each PAC is entitled to give up to \$10,000 to each candidate. But because there are 124 pro-Israel PACs, who support the same agenda and give predominantly to the same candidates, the campaign spending limits are effectively circumvented. As a result, the AIPAC-led, pro-Israel lobby has become America's largest special interest group, spending over \$5.8 million in 1988, \$2.2 million more than the next largest special interest group, the National Association of Realtors.

Blinding the public

Federal election laws require candidates to disclose the amount of money PACs contribute to their campaigns, but pro-Israel PACs have made a mockery of public disclosure laws by using names which mask their agenda. In 1988, not one of the 114 active pro-Israel PACs had names which mentioned Israel, the Middle East, or anything that would suggest an allegiance to Israel.



Instead they are called "For Integrity in Government," "Americans for a Good Government," "Chillipac," and "Icepac," to name a few. These names make it virtually impossible for the public to find out who is actually financing its representatives in Washington.

The lesson

Members of Congress, though, know exactly where their money comes from and are periodically reminded of what happens if they vote against the Israel lobby. "Like an Indian elephant we don't forget," AIPAC President Thomas Dine told Congress in 1984. To prove his point, AIPAC and its supporters went after two senators, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 18-year incumbent Charles Percy (R-IL), who supported arms sales to Saudi Arabia, and the Foreign Relations Committee's next ranking member, Jesse Helms (R-NC), who voted against aid to Israel, spending over \$1.7 million to defeat the two men.

Percy was defeated, and Helms won by a slim margin, in what to date has been the most expensive congressional race in history. Although Dine said Helms "had the worst anti-Israel record in the United States Senate," after 1984 election he became a changed man. In 1989, he spearheaded Israel's drive to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by sponsoring legislation that would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

After 1984, Helms supported AIPAC-backed legislation so much that by 1990, he was taken off the pro-Israel lobby hit list. Harvey Cant, Helms' opponent this year, has only received minimal support for the November 1990 elections, and Helms has even been rewarded with \$4,500 for his upcoming race.

This year's action

Helms is not alone. Some 30 of the 31 Senators running for re-election in 1990 have taken pro-Israel PAC money. Leading the Senate in donations is Carl Levin (D-MI), who as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee plays a critical role in ratifying arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. Levin has received \$183,300 for his 1990 re-election race and \$364,338 from pro-Israel PACs since 1978.

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), who defeated Percy in 1984, follows with \$180,151 for 1990 and \$498,290 overall. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), who sits on the Foreign Operations and Defence Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, is ranked third, receiving \$177,050 for the 1990 race and \$291,480 since 1978.

In the House of Representatives, David Obey (D-WI) is the top recipient of pro-Israel PAC money for 1990. And for good reason, Obey is Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees the spending of U.S. foreign aid. Obey, a long-time friend of Israel, has recently become more critical, warning that "foot-drag-

ging and obfuscation" in the peace process will harm Israeli chances for future U.S. aid. Rather than take on Obey, who is expected to win re-election easily, pro-Israel PACs have given him \$38,300 for his 1990 re-election race. Obey has received \$100,400 from pro-Israel PACs since 1978.

"Practically every congressman and senator says his prayers to the AIPAC lobby," says former Under Secretary of State George Ball. In fact, over all, 458 members of Congress have taken money from pro-Israel PACs, including 90 per cent of the members to face re-election on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and 98 per cent of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, two committees that are directly involved in molding U.S.-Middle East policy.

All these donations lend credence to the charge that the U.S. Congress is another Israeli-occupied territory, and that President Bush's attempts to support U.S. interests, whether it is in selling arms to America's Arab allies or trying to broker a viable Middle East peace, will be difficult battles indeed.

OPEN LETTERS

Mr. Bush, be fair

To the president of the U.S.

This is an urgent appeal to you to consider the following: Mankind has progressed enormously in numerous ways since the days of cave-man; we are now able to put a man on the moon and we have reached an unbelievably high level of comfort and pleasure in our lives. It would therefore be very tragic if we should be obliged to face the fact that we have not progressed in our ability to resolve differences but would still resort to violence rather than using the greatest gift to man: the ability to express ourselves verbally.

A great country like the U.S.A., being one of the technically most advanced countries in the world, is unfortunately also a country with a tremendous crime rate, immense drug problems and divorce rate, harbouring millions of homeless and destitute people as well as being an extremely wasteful nation. Is it possible that such a country would add, to these problems, thousands of casualties and thousands of physically and mentally crippled American soldiers, as a result of waging a war against Iraq? Even if you, Mr. President, do not have any compassion for the human beings called Iraqis, nor for the human beings called Arabs, perhaps you would find it difficult to have to receive the coffins and wounded American soldiers and to face their families.

Would you not, Mr. Bush, as a great president of a great country, rather go down in history as the greatest president, admired by all mankind for averting a war that could have turned into the most devastating war of all times? Surely you can afford to show some flexibility to achieve all this. With peace restored, all nations could then divert their energies and resources to truly improve the comfort of all mankind.

A big responsibility rests with you, Mr. President; may you choose the way which is fair to all human beings.

For God we are all the same

Hilda Pharaon
P.O. Box 9215, Amman, Jordan

Justice for all

To the editor

We are Italian ladies, living in Jordan married to Jordanian citizens.

We feel an obligation to express our deep sense of indignation and disapproval at the way the major part of the western media has been presenting the Gulf problem, the superficiality, and at the speed with which military intervention was called for.

We note, in the way in which news regarding the Arab World is reported, a lack of deep understanding of the problems which bring to light the historical and political causes of the events. The justifiability of placing the great economic powers at the centre of the world offends the dignity and pride of the people who have always been forced to submit to the interest of other countries.

We are aware of how deluded the people are about this unjust situation and we understand the desperate need for revenge.

For too long there have been two different yardsticks in use, pertaining to the situation in the Middle East.

A just solution should be found, taking into consideration all the various problems in the Middle East, from the Palestinian problem, to the Lebanese crisis, and to the problem in the Gulf through the convening of an international conference.

We hope that any diplomatic initiative for a political, global, and just solution would not be hindered and that His Majesty King Hussein would continue along the road of political mediation to avoid a conflict which would have devastating and incalculable consequences, disastrous for all.

There exist basic human principles of equality, justice and respect which go beyond any ethnic origins and which are common to all religions.

There is a moral duty for this not to be forgotten or denied as history has shown us in the past.

We are part of the life and history of this country and that of the Arab World general.

A group of Italian ladies, Amman

As far as gestures go

To the Editor,

Some friends of mine have complained that President Bush's conciliatory tone in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly earlier this week has largely gone without due appreciation in Jordan. They wonder that that was not the case when French President Mitterrand announced his four-stage plan for the Middle East a few days earlier. Can't it be true that Bush did not go as far as Mitterrand did in their conciliatory gestures towards the Arabs?

Saima Barakat,
Amman.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Oct. 4, 1990 A

An Egyptian feminist speaks out

By Katia Sabat

CAIRO — She has written half a dozen books and seen all of them made into films. She has appeared on countless television and radio shows, spoken at conferences and seminars all over the world and is a regular contributor to one of Egypt's best-known magazines. Under any circumstances, Eqbal Baraka's achievements would be considerable, but in a country where traditions run deep and society remains fundamentally patriarchal, they are nothing less than exceptional. In a career spanning nearly three decades this 47-year-old writer has established herself as one of the most compelling authors in the Middle East as well as one of the most committed and active feminists in present day Egypt.

Baraka herself rejects the word "feminist," arguing that it serves only to perpetuate what has become an obsolete difference between the sexes. Yet it is against this very difference that Baraka has fought for more than 30 years. "Discrimination between the sexes begins the minute you pronounce the word 'feminism,'" she says. "This is why Nasr's revolution, which gave the Egyptian woman every social and legal tool to develop and evolve, never set up a women's association," she said. Baraka is referring to the 1952 revolution led by Egypt's first president, Gamal Abdul Nasser, which brought independence and advocated equality of the sexes as part of a new Socialist model.

But although she considers herself to be one of the daughters of a revolution that allowed her to grow personally, Baraka says she believes most women missed out on the opportunities of the era, because they failed to unite and organise.

Baraka lays part of the blame on women themselves. "In Egyptian and Eastern society in general, there is an enormous difference in the number of women who, on the one hand have a university education and work, and on the other, those who could be described as having fully realised their potential," she said. Those who have, believes Baraka, are a tiny minority. Sadly, many of them have a superior attitude and have no interest in helping other women achieve the same goals, she claims. "It is as though their motto is: 'Well, I did all right for myself, the others can just get on with it on their own.'"

"This has created an absurd social situation," she added. From observing the behaviour of the many women she has met at her seminars and meetings, "very often, all I could see in them was selfishness, egocentricity and a lack of solidarity," she said. "From what I have seen, I can safely say that an oriental woman's worst enemy is another oriental woman."

"The reasons are complex but one of them is the fact that the progress is seen as a personal accomplishment; it is individual and subjective," she said. "When it comes to others, progress is seen as

pretentiousness."

Ironically, Baraka admits to being 100 per cent content with her life as a wife and as mother to a grown-up son and daughter and she claims to draw great satisfaction from her work. She is blonde, attractive and has a voice and a presence which come over strongly when she is addressing audiences. She is known for her courage and outspokenness.

There is definitely something of the rebel in Baraka. Yet she says her revolutionary spirit is not the product of a personal frustration, but of the family situation into which she was born. "I was born into a traditional family. It was such a stereotype of a certain era," she said. "My father was an official at the Ministry of Awqaf at a time when the average Egyptian saw being a civil servant as the epitome of success."

Those days are long gone, but Abdul Hamid Baraka took the stereotype to its utmost limit. He had three wives who bore him 10 children. Baraka is the daughter of the third wife, who was 30 years younger than her husband and lived under the same roof as the much older "dorra" — the name given to a man's second wife. There was also an elderly grandmother in the family's spacious apartment in Daher, one of Cairo's most ethnically mixed neighbourhoods.

"We were like a real tribe," Baraka recalled. "There was an enormous contrast between the way we lived and the lifestyle of our neighbours who were Greek, Italian and

Armenian. Very early on, I realised that my father, by playing the part of the polygamous patriarch, led a life that was in complete contradiction with the ideas and principles of the 20th century." Yet her father was an educated and open-minded man, at least in public.

"I also found it absurd and revolting that my mother and her 'dorra' should accept each other's presence under the same roof," said Baraka. "I remember the sadness that never left my mother. She loved my father dearly, so much so that she died less than a year after he did. My own rebellion against the role of women in the East began when I saw the tears of my mother swallowed so often in silence."

Although women today are better equipped with tools to fight for their rights, Baraka is not convinced they know how to use them. It is not easy to overturn a system that has been ingrained in society for thousands of years, she says. Many oriental women are fatalistic by nature, she adds. "Everything would have been different if Egyptian women had realised the importance of their role in society through the education of their children. Within the family unit, the oriental woman has almost limitless power. Had women made use of this extraordinary covert power in the years that followed 1952, Egypt would be in a completely different situation today. Unfortunately, we lacked cohesion, solidarity and



Author Eqbal Baraka sees freedom as being conscious of one's role in society.

perhaps leadership as well." The progress of women is something that must be looked at objectively, says Baraka. She argues that the much-vaunted liberation of Western women is less far-reaching than it seems. "I don't consider a woman to be really liberated when she places sexual relationships on the same level as the pleasures of the table," she said. "By trying to get rid of the last vestiges of the Victorian taboos, the Western woman has perhaps overstepped her goal and fallen into an opposite form of slavery: that of the flesh, of seeking pleasure

at all costs and in the process, she has lost sight of the less material values." Baraka sees freedom as a more personal concept. "What I mean by freedom is having the power of decision that enables a woman to defend her dignity under any circumstances," she said. "For a woman, freedom is also having the chance to earn a living so as not to be dependent on an undeserving husband. To be free is to be conscious of the role we must play in a modern society and to have the will to play that role to the end, no matter what" — World News Link.

Warsaw opens its heart to Chopin Piano Competition

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

WARSAW — Warsaw opens its heart to the musical talent of the world this week as young pianists from 30 countries gather for the Frederic Chopin Piano Competition.

The competition, 12th in a series inaugurated in 1927 to honour Poland's composer, is one of the world's most prestigious musical festivals.

It is rivalled only by the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels.

When it reaches its climax on Oct. 21 with the award of the winner's gold medal after three weeks of public recitals at Warsaw's Philharmonia Concert Hall, a new piano prodigy will be born.

The presence of two queens, Sofia of Spain and Fabiola of Belgium, will add glitter to this year's competition. But it will not completely escape the austerity Poland is suffering in the switch from Communism to capitalism.

First-round contestants are being asked for the first time to pay their hotel bills to help the Solidarity-led government meet its share of the \$1 million bill.

According to Professors Jan Ekier, president of the 21-member international jury, the Chopin Competition is probably the most important of its kind.

"To win is the start of a career. Most of the winners make their career thanks to the competition," he said.

The winner will join a pantheon of laureates like Martha Argerich of Argentina, Maurizio Pollini of Italy, Garrick Ohlsson of the United States and Krystian Zimmern of Poland.

Valdimir Ashkenazy, who is on the jury, only managed second place in 1955, a vintage year in which entrants included Hungarian virtuosi Tamas Vasary and Peter Frankl.

"It's a very difficult competition," said Ekier. "It's not only technically difficult but it's psychologically grueling. There are many entrants and the competition is very tough."

"You really have to distinguish yourself to emerge from the mass and win a prize."

Nearly 140 young pianists out of 220 applicants compete in the opening round, playing a selection of Chopin's subtle, technically-difficult nocturnes, etudes and scherzi. Only 40 qualify for the

second round — an extensive programme of ballades, etudes, preludes, waltzes and Polonaises that whittles the numbers down to 15.

After performing in the third round a sonata, three or four mazurkas and the Opus 39 impromptu in F sharp major, six pianists qualify for the final in which they play one of Chopin's two concerti.

Ekier, who played in the 1937 competition and now teaches at the Warsaw Music Academy, has been on the jury every time but one since 1949 and was president for the last competition in 1985 won by Soviet virtuoso Stanislav Bunin.

He says there are no favourites before the competition and the jury never agrees with those who win the favour of the public and the press during the performances.

Despite his experience, Ekier finds it impossible to say whether standards of performance at the competition are improving.

"Statistically, perhaps, there are more people now who play with perfect technique," he said. "Technically, there are many more extraordinary pianists."

"But you can't talk like that about talent. A pianist either has a great talent or not, and that can't be compared," he added.

"If you look at the list of winners since 1927 there are not two who are similar musicians."

However, Ekier says today's young pianists seem to have more difficulty in capturing the delicate, refined atmosphere of Chopin's music than 50 years ago.

"Maybe it's the influence of contemporary music, or the attitudes of young people or even of modern technique," he said.

"But the way of combining the music to continue the melody seems more difficult now and the sonority of the new pianos doesn't capture the Chopin sound," he added.

Traditionally, Soviet and Polish pianists have dominated the competition, winning seven out of 11 times but Asian pianists have kept up a determined challenge and are back in strength this year.

Thai Son Dang of Vietnam won in 1980 and Japanese pianists came second in 1970 and fourth in the last competition.

This time the 20 Japanese outnumber all other contingents and are followed by the Soviet Union with 17.

Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the gang turn 40 years old

By Catherine Crocker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Good grief: The Peanuts gang is turning 40.

The images are embedded in popular culture: Charlie Brown trying to kick a football, Snoopy gunning for the red baron and Lucy dispensing psychiatric advice, a Nickelodeon cartoon.

Now it's time to celebrate. In honour of the 40th anniversary of the celebrated comic strip Peanuts, there's a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall, a birthday party at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and a special exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

On Oct. 2, 1950, Peanuts made its debut in seven newspapers, and good old Charlie Brown and his beguiling Beagle were on their way to becoming an international phenomenon.

Today the strip runs in 2,300 newspapers and reaches more than 200 million readers a day in 68 countries. The

Peanuts gang speaks Chinese, even Serbo-Croatian.

There's been a hit musical, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, a series of TV specials and a book on the philosophical and religious implications of the strip, The Gospel According to Peanuts.

In September, cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was one of Forbes magazine's top 10 richest entertainers, with earnings for 1989 and 1990 estimated at \$54 million.

Unlike many cartoonists, the 67-year-old Schulz still draws every comic strip himself.

"Why do musicians compose symphonies and poets write poems?" he asked. "They do it because life wouldn't have any meaning for them if they didn't."

"That's why I draw cartoons. It's my life."

The cartoonist was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He studied art in high school, after he saw a "do you like to draw?" ad.

Schulz later did lettering for

a church comic book, taught art and sold cartoons to the Saturday Evening Post. His cartoon feature Li'l Folks, the forerunner of Peanuts, was developed for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in 1947. The strip was sold to a syndicate in 1950, and the name changed to Peanuts.

Charlie, the round-headed boy in a ragged shirt, was named after a friend at art school and is the cartoonist's alter ego. Snoopy was inspired by a dog he had as a child.

The little red-haired girl — Charlie's unrequited love who is never shown in the strip — was based on a girlfriend who rejected Schulz's proposal of marriage.

Through the years, for the millions of readers, Charlie and his gang have been like family.

Followers know that Snoopy — in his World War I flying ace incarnation — flies a Sopwith Camel. They know Linus needs his security blanket and Schroeder plays

Beethoven on his tiny piano. The 40th birthday festivities kicked off at the Super Bowl Stadium in New Orleans in January with a halftime show featuring the Peanuts characters.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County saluted Charlie, Snoopy, Linus, Schroeder, Peppermint Patty, Sally, Lucy — and Schulz — with an exhibit that premiered at the Louvre in January.

There will be original artwork by Schulz, excerpts from the more than 40 Peanuts television shows and Snoopy mementos that were carried aboard NASA's Apollo 10 mission.

New York City will toast Schulz and his characters Oct. 24 with a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall, featuring saxophonist Grover Washington Jr. The Peanuts television specials have been noted for their original jazz scores.

Opening Oct. 30 at the Smithsonian is "This Is Your Childhood, Charlie Brown — Children in American Cul-

ture, 1945-1970, an exhibit that looks at how Schulz's comic strips reflected childhood and American culture after World War II.

There will also be a

Snoopy: The Universal Dog exhibit at the Dog Museum in St. Louis, starting Nov. 11. A Peanuts exhibit is now on display at the Museum of Cartoon Art in San Francisco.

Passion Play keeps tradition going strong

OBERRAMMERGAU — For over four months this summer the idyllic village of Oberammergau, population 5,000 in Upper Bavaria was visited by over half a million people from all over the world. They came to see the villagers perform their famous passion play, dating back to 1634 when Upper Bavaria was stricken by an epidemic of the plague. The villagers promised to perform a passion play every 10 years if they survived the epidemic. There were no more victims of the "black death," and the villagers have since regularly enacted the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ.

The Oberammergau Passion Play, performed every 10 years, is as popular in other European countries, in America, Australia and many other parts of the world as it is in Germany. Over half the tickets for the season's 100 performances have been ordered for visitors from Britain and North America. What used to be an act of Christian piety has long been big business and a major tourist attraction for the idyllic Alpine village with its ornate chalets.

But traditions are still strictly enforced, one being that only people born in Ober-



Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl, front right, here seen alongside this year's Jesus Christ, Martin Norz, plays a simple "man of the people" in the Passion Play at his home village of Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps.

ammergau can act in the Passion Play. At present that means a potential cast of 1,700, from babes in arms to old folk. The

best-known villager is Bavarian Prime Minister Max Streibl, who comes up from Munich whenever he can to play a man of the people and hail the Messiah on his entry to Jerusalem — German Feature.



Talking about children

By Maha Addasi

GO to any social event, where people are most showing off their latest outfits and start a conversation about the depletion of the ozone layer, and you will become the recluse of the year, as the group you are standing with instantly dissipates.

So what all-season conversation starter gets first ratings in the social groups?

Well it is none other than, "the children."

Once a parent starts talking about his, or her child, they're on a roll and there's no stopping them.

If you sway the conversation to, say, water shortages, it suddenly reminds that parent about the, "wonderful project junior worked on regarding that subject."

Do you people in readerland get my trend?

The problem isn't the children per se, but how these parents make their children out to be the Godsend to society, and they rank their kids up there with famous people. So the conversation goes something like this: "Einstein, Nobel, son or daughter's name..." and continues to make the child out to be the season's success story, because like all the children on Earth this kid is at the top of his class!

At their worst people's children are, "very, very intelligent, but they don't study."

My question is, "why don't the creeps study, or are they so spoiled that their parents can't control them?" Of course, I say nothing and move on.

At another group, a woman is telling the others how her darling child is so lonely after his siblings left for college. So

last week alone she bought the kid three new board games, and two new outfits.

"And a partridge in a pear tree," another woman adds sarcastically.

One of my friends, Cindi, who doesn't mind my saying her name, provided I didn't mention her last name, Feiner, (pronounced Finer), says that there is a way to handle a conversation with a "parent admirer of his own child."

"If I exhaust the subject about the weather and there is absolutely nothing else to talk about," Cindi says, "I ask about the children. But I tell the parent that he or she are allowed one and only one story so they should choose the most entertaining episode about their little brats. And I warn them that one extra word out of them about the kids and they can compare notes with Marie Antoinette."

"That, usually takes care of the conversation, if the parents are still on talking terms with me," Cindi says.

I, on the other hand, would be more inclined to tolerate the stories about how the same kid who said "gaga" when he first got into the babies' swimming pool (which is also a huge public toilet for babies) is now looking for a job as a marine biologist. I listen as I silently wonder if the paté knife slashes wrists.

But no more of this. That's it. I'm going to put my foot down and not listen to these stories any more.

The only solution I've come up with is to give up being the social butterfly and stay home. The events are all the same. The conversations are all the same. And the next time I feel I must show off my latest outfit, I will send it to the party on a hanger with a friend like Cindi, who would announce that this is what I would have worn had I shown up.

The Obstinate Tree

By E. Yaghi

ONCE upon a time there lived a religious minister who faithfully worshipped God for many years. He carried himself with pride and devotion and was upheld by many as an example of honourable piety. His immense faith was often envied by those who deemed themselves less reverent than he. As to be expected, the minister was a leader of his community and frequently delivered sermons. During his spare time, he would offer counsel to various members of his congregation.

One day, the minister received word that some of his fellow villagers had begun to worship a certain large tree which was situated in a nearby forest. Enraged by their pagan conduct, the minister swore he would omit the object of their idolatry.

Next day, after a session of early morning prayer, the minister threw an axe across his shoulder and set out to chop down the offending tree. If he hadn't been so angry, he would have savoured the smell of crisp pine trees along the way, and would have heard the chirping of the forest birds and seen the scampering of furry squirrels, but his rage incensed him.

Somewhere along the way, the minister met Satan who appeared in the form of an old man. Satan said, "where are you going my good man? May God have mercy on you."

Enthusiastic about his mission, he replied, "I am a minister and am going to chop down the tree that is causing so much trouble because it is worshipped by some foolish people who have forgotten their God."

Satan sensed that his task would be difficult but then he was clever at sidetracking and persuading folks to be less religious. After all, he had been around for a long time and was well qualified for his job. "Why do you concern yourself with such a tree and with those who worship it?" he said. "You have your prayers and devotion and now are going to divert your veneration to something else. You are unnecessarily directing your religious endeavours to insignificant areas."

But, the minister, unswayed, replied with intensity and conviction, "chopping down that tree is part of my worship."

Satan could see that he was dealing with a tough case, so he said, "I won't let you cut it," and firmly stood in the minister's path.

Inflamed with rage and frustrated by the daring antics of the old man, the minister attacked him and they began to fight. Although much younger, the strength of the old man amazed the minister. However, in due course, with much panting and puffing, the minister pinned Satan down and sat on top of him.

Yet, Satan was much too clever for simple submission, so he told his foe, "you have beaten me, an old man, but please get off and let me just talk to you."

The minister was almost ashamed of beating the elderly man, so he got off. Satan tried to persuade him to forsake the idea of cutting down the tree. "Why do you insist on cutting the tree? God didn't tell you to chop it," he said. "It's not your concern. You don't have to. God sends prophets for such missions. If God wished, he would have sent a prophet to the people and asked him to cut the tree."

Steadfast however, the minister replied, "No, I must chop it down."

Again they engaged in battle and again the minister, victorious, sat on Satan's chest.

Defeat tasted sour for Satan so he said, "get off me and I will tell you about an idea which will be better for you and much more useful."

Once more the minister let the old man get up and noticed the distressed look on his face as Satan said, "let me give you some good advice and then you can do what you will. I know you are a poor man. Because you are a minister, you are a burden on people because you depend on them to support you. You seem to be a proud man and I'm sure

you would like to be the one who gives gifts to people instead of receiving gifts of charity. I have a plan in which you will be able to help your neighbours, will need no one and will become rich."

Perhaps it would be better not to burden others, the minister began to think. Perhaps it would feel good to master his own fortune and back his religious preaching with money. After some contemplation, he agreed and listened to Satan's conditions.

"Don't cut down the tree. Each night I'll put two gold coins under your pillow. You will spend this money on yourself and whoever you wish," said Satan. "You'll have alms for your brothers. This money will serve you well and be more useful than chopping down a tree which will benefit no one."

The minister thought, then said to himself, "this old man is right. I'm not a prophet. I don't have to cut down the tree. God didn't send me any orders. This old man has made more sense. He must be a magician."

Although Satan's strength had failed to stop the minister, his cunning did. The minister accepted Satan's offer and returned to his village with his axe slung over his shoulder. He failed to feel the burning rays of the midday sun. The forest animals again scampered unnoticed as the minister's mind twirled in deep concentration. Who cared about nature any more? There were plans to be made and power to be held.

Next morning, as promised, the minister found two gold coins under his pillow. He was delighted. He had been foolish to think of cutting the tree.

On the second morning, the minister's hand plunged under his pillow and again pulled out two more gold coins. All right! Life was getting better.

However, on the third morning, the minister's hand returned from his pillow without any coins. He turned his bed upside down in frantic search. Perhaps there had been some mistake. Oh well, he'd wait until tomorrow.

On the fourth morning, there was nothing again. He had been cheated. He fumed with anger. He paced back and forth. Finally, he grabbed his axe and struck out for the tree. He'd show that old man. He'd cut down that tree after all.

Satan repeated his performance of appearing as an old man and met him on the way. "Well, well, where are you going minister?"

"To cut down that tree once and for all."

"You are lying," Satan replied, his face snarling in sudden defiance. "I swear that you will not be able to cut that tree."

How terribly bold of that old man. Just who did he think he was anyway? Magician or not, the minister had beaten him twice before; he could easily beat him another time and teach him a lesson. He grabbed Satan and proceeded to throw him down as before, but to his surprise, it was Satan who got hold of him, threw him down like a worm and sat on his chest and said, "if you don't stop trying to cut down that tree, I will slay you."

Incredulous, the minister looked at Satan but was helpless. He tried to move Satan with all his power, then in defeat said, "OK, you won, so get off me. But tell me how did you beat me now? I won you so easily the first two times."

With apparent pleasure, Satan answered: "The first time your anger was directed to please God. You believed in what you were doing and your intention was for the Day of Resurrection. But this time you were angry for yourself and the material things of this world. That's how I beat you."

It was then with sorrow that the minister knew that if a person's deeds were sincere to God, then he could not be beaten. The minister, a double loser, had lost this world as well as the hereafter. As for the obstinate tree, it is still standing in the middle of some obscure forest, the object of idolatry, waiting to be cut down by someone who sincerely works for God and the Day of Resurrection.

Tales of a sea serpent emerge from the deep of big U.S. lake

By Mitch Weiss
The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Does Nessie, Scotland's fabled Loch Ness monster, have a cousin?

A handful of sightings of huge serpentine creatures in Lake Erie were recorded in 1985 and 1987. But things remained quiet in this northern region of the United States until Sept. 4.

That's when Harold Bricker and his family returned from a fishing trip with a new sighting, and monster mania began spreading along Lake Erie's shorefront communities.

The brickers said they saw a large creature moving in the water about 1,000 feet (300 metres) from their boat. They described it as black, about 35 feet (11 metres) long and with a snake-like head.

It moved as fast as their boat.

"I told my son that I wanted to get a look at it," the 67-year-old Bricker said. "My son said, 'no way, that thing is bigger than we are.' So we stayed where we were."

Bricker, his wife, Cora, and son, Robert, told authorities what they'd seen.

The creature has since been reported by five people on three separate occasions, including a local firefighter and a 50-year-old woman from Pennsylvania vacationing at her Lake Erie cottage.



A photograph of the Loch Ness Monster.

John Schaffner, editor of a weekly newspaper in Port Clinton, has set up a toll-free phone for people to call if they see the serpent.

He also ran a contest to name it. South Bay Besse was chosen in part because of the location of the Davis Besse Nuclear Power Plant near Port Clinton — not to mention that Besse rhymes with "Nessie."

The story of the monster in Loch Ness in north-central Scotland dates back centuries and is worth tens of millions in tourist dollars to the region each year. Three years ago, a

anyone who captures the fabled South Bay Besse alive. He also posted a sign at his marina calling it the future home of the Lake Erie sea serpent.

But while some people are having fun with the creature, marine researchers remain sceptical.

Fred Snyder, a researcher with the Ohio Sea Grant, an organization that examines great lakes issues, said it is highly unlikely a monster is living in Lake Erie.

He added that he's "not trying to be the sour old guy who throws a bucket of water on things" and loves stories about the Loch Ness monster.

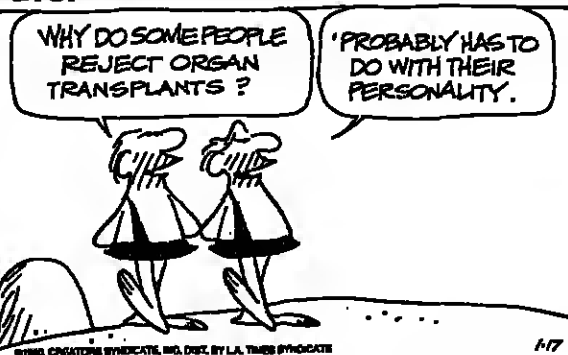
But he noted that Loch Ness is old, while Lake Erie is a youngster, geologically speaking.

"A lot of people kind of assume, like most places in the world, it must be millions and millions of years old," he said. "It's not the case. The glaciers receded and the area stabilised about 12,000 years ago, which, geologically, is just yesterday."

"So the monster really can't be anything left over from the dinosaur days, because it's just too young."

We apologise to our readers that the JTV Channel 4 Weekly Preview does not appear in this week's Weekender. This is due to Jordan Television's inability to provide us with it since they are in the process of working on a new programme cycle that has not been finally drawn up.

B.C.



BY JOHNNY HART



Weekend Crossword

PENETRATING LANGUAGE

By David Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 Turk title
- 2 River to the sea
- 3 Convalescence
- 4 Degree
- 5 Day by law
- 6 Made happen
- 7 Mr. West
- 8 Singsong
- 9 Markman
- 10 Gilbert & Sullivan ship
- 11 Patois
- 12 Blushful
- 13 "Interno"
- 14 Author
- 15 Certain bank
- 16 "Seven" — for Seven Brothers
- 17 Lessee

DOWN

- 1 Plain in the neck
- 2 Name in tennis
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Ghastly
- 5 Clothing
- 6 Pains
- 7 Villanella's land
- 8 Two singers
- 9 Nautical word
- 10 More in want
- 11 Indians
- 12 — the Red
- 13 — Arbor, Mt
- 14 Horchoca
- 15 "Jane Eyre" author
- 16 Jimmy or Nell
- 17 Guides
- 18 Make deer
- 19 Round reminder
- 20 Capitulum
- 21 weapon

DOWN

- 1 Thinest
- 2 Law and —
- 3 Boundaries
- 4 Indian
- 5 Poncho
- 6 Cares for
- 7 Woplar's river
- 8 Roll of money
- 9 Economized
- 10 Harsh light
- 11 Dangle
- 12 Fill

Diagramless

19x19, By Martha J. De Wit

ACROSS

- 1 Place
- 2 Depressed
- 3 Guide
- 4 Fountain drink
- 5 More joyful
- 6 Covered with concrete
- 7 Freeway
- 8 divisions
- 9 "Madam, I'm —"
- 10 Drowsy
- 11 Part of USA
- 12 abhor

DOWN

- 1 Of a plane
- 2 Chop finely
- 3 Volcano output
- 4 — trap for fly to catch
- 5 Motors
- 6 Gathering for men
- 7 News
- 8 Made glad
- 9 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Big-billed birds
- 2 Master in Madrid
- 3 Couses
- 4 A way from the wind
- 5 Close relatives
- 6 Civil wrongs
- 7 High-priced
- 8 Show gripper
- 9 Difficult
- 10 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Propagate
- 2 Cubic meter
- 3 Change the
- 4 In the van
- 5 Bowsprit
- 6 Military student
- 7 Curt
- 8 Soars
- 9 Criticizes
- 10 Consumers
- 11 Actor Vigoda
- 12 Denier
- 13 Pronoun

DOWN

- 1 Bishop's cloth
- 2 Depth charge
- 3 Athens rival
- 4 Conditional
- 5 Squirrel-like animal
- 6 Saw
- 7 Very near to
- 8 Coast, abhor
- 9 Gaelic
- 10 Dwindles
- 11 "He — that is gathered and gone" (Lyall)
- 12 Scat, negative
- 13 Section of
- 14 seats
- 15 Golf term
- 16 Is vanquished

DOWN

- 1 Rain in the neck
- 2 Name in tennis
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Ghastly
- 5 Clothing
- 6 Pains
- 7 Villanella's land
- 8 Two singers
- 9 Nautical word
- 10 More in want
- 11 Indians
- 12 — the Red
- 13 — Arbor, Mt
- 14 Horchoca
- 15 "Jane Eyre" author
- 16 Jimmy or Nell
- 17 Guides
- 18 Make deer
- 19 Round reminder
- 20 Capitulum
- 21 weapon

DOWN

- 1 Thinest
- 2 Law and —
- 3 Boundaries
- 4 Indian
- 5 Poncho
- 6 Cares for
- 7 Woplar's river
- 8 Roll of money
- 9 Economized
- 10 Harsh light
- 11 Dangle
- 12 Fill

DOWN

- 1 Of a plane
- 2 Chop finely
- 3 Volcano output
- 4 — trap for fly to catch
- 5 Motors
- 6 Gathering for men
- 7 News
- 8 Made glad
- 9 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Big-billed birds
- 2 Master in Madrid
- 3 Couses
- 4 A way from the wind
- 5 Close relatives
- 6 Civil wrongs
- 7 High-priced
- 8 Show gripper
- 9 Difficult
- 10 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Propagate
- 2 Cubic meter
- 3 Change the
- 4 In the van
- 5 Bowsprit
- 6 Military student
- 7 Curt
- 8 Soars
- 9 Criticizes
- 10 Consumers
- 11 Actor Vigoda
- 12 Denier
- 13 Pronoun

DOWN

- 1 Bishop's cloth
- 2 Depth charge
- 3 Athens rival
- 4 Conditional
- 5 Squirrel-like animal
- 6 Saw
- 7 Very near to
- 8 Coast, abhor
- 9 Gaelic
- 10 Dwindles
- 11 "He — that is gathered and gone" (Lyall)
- 12 Scat, negative
- 13 Section of
- 14 seats
- 15 Golf term
- 16 Is vanquished

DOWN

- 1 Rain in the neck
- 2 Name in tennis
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Ghastly
- 5 Clothing
- 6 Pains
- 7 Villanella's land
- 8 Two singers
- 9 Nautical word
- 10 More in want
- 11 Indians
- 12 — the Red
- 13 — Arbor, Mt
- 14 Horchoca
- 15 "Jane Eyre" author
- 16 Jimmy or Nell
- 17 Guides
- 18 Make deer
- 19 Round reminder
- 20 Capitulum
- 21 weapon

DOWN

- 1 Thinest
- 2 Law and —
- 3 Boundaries
- 4 Indian
- 5 Poncho
- 6 Cares for
- 7 Woplar's river
- 8 Roll of money
- 9 Economized
- 10 Harsh light
- 11 Dangle
- 12 Fill

DOWN

- 1 Of a plane
- 2 Chop finely
- 3 Volcano output
- 4 — trap for fly to catch
- 5 Motors
- 6 Gathering for men
- 7 News
- 8 Made glad
- 9 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Big-billed birds
- 2 Master in Madrid
- 3 Couses
- 4 A way from the wind
- 5 Close relatives
- 6 Civil wrongs
- 7 High-priced
- 8 Show gripper
- 9 Difficult
- 10 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Propagate
- 2 Cubic meter
- 3 Change the
- 4 In the van
- 5 Bowsprit
- 6 Military student
- 7 Curt
- 8 Soars
- 9 Criticizes
- 10 Consumers
- 11 Actor Vigoda
- 12 Denier
- 13 Pronoun

DOWN

- 1 Bishop's cloth
- 2 Depth charge
- 3 Athens rival
- 4 Conditional
- 5 Squirrel-like animal
- 6 Saw
- 7 Very near to
- 8 Coast, abhor
- 9 Gaelic
- 10 Dwindles
- 11 "He — that is gathered and gone" (Lyall)
- 12 Scat, negative
- 13 Section of
- 14 seats
- 15 Golf term
- 16 Is vanquished

DOWN

- 1 Rain in the neck
- 2 Name in tennis
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Ghastly
- 5 Clothing
- 6 Pains
- 7 Villanella's land
- 8 Two singers
- 9 Nautical word
- 10 More in want
- 11 Indians
- 12 — the Red
- 13 — Arbor, Mt
- 14 Horchoca
- 15 "Jane Eyre" author
- 16 Jimmy or Nell
- 17 Guides
- 18 Make deer
- 19 Round reminder
- 20 Capitulum
- 21 weapon

DOWN

- 1 Thinest
- 2 Law and —
- 3 Boundaries
- 4 Indian
- 5 Poncho
- 6 Cares for
- 7 Woplar's river
- 8 Roll of money
- 9 Economized
- 10 Harsh light
- 11 Dangle
- 12 Fill

DOWN

- 1 Of a plane
- 2 Chop finely
- 3 Volcano output
- 4 — trap for fly to catch
- 5 Motors
- 6 Gathering for men
- 7 News
- 8 Made glad
- 9 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Big-billed birds
- 2 Master in Madrid
- 3 Couses
- 4 A way from the wind
- 5 Close relatives
- 6 Civil wrongs
- 7 High-priced
- 8 Show gripper
- 9 Difficult
- 10 FDR cabinet member

DOWN

- 1 Propagate
- 2 Cubic meter
- 3 Change the
- 4 In the van
- 5 Bowsprit
- 6 Military student
- 7 Curt
- 8 Soars
- 9 Criticizes
- 10 Consumers
- 11 Actor Vigoda
- 12 Denier
- 13 Pronoun

DOWN

- 1 Bishop's cloth
- 2 Depth charge
- 3 Athens rival
- 4 Conditional
- 5 Squirrel-like animal
- 6 Saw
- 7 Very near to
- 8 Coast, abhor
- 9 Gaelic
- 10 Dwindles
- 11 "He — that is gathered and gone" (Lyall)
- 12 Scat, negative
- 13 Section of
- 14 seats
- 15 Golf term
- 16 Is vanquished

DOWN

- 1 Rain in the neck
- 2 Name in tennis
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Ghastly
- 5 Clothing
- 6 Pains
- 7 Villanella's

Ray Charles going strong at 60

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Turning 60 is no big deal for Ray Charles. He feels fine, doesn't have any profound insights to offer and is too busy performing to worry about it.

"Birthdays are just like the clock," reasons Charles, whose birthday was Sunday (Sept. 23). "If you just live, it comes around anyway."

Think of Ray Charles and you'll picture him behind a piano, his shoulders swaying, his head thrown back in ecstasy. But offstage, he keeps to himself.

"I don't have maybe more than three, five friends in the whole world," he said in a recent interview. "It's not that I don't like people and it's not that people don't like me, but everybody has their own lifestyle and I'm very much into myself."

The white in his hair is the

only clue to his age. His face is almost wrinkle-free, his body wiry and loose. Words come out in a rush, his mind pushing them out through his mouth as quickly as possible.

Seated in an overstuffed chair in his Manhattan hotel room, Charles shifted about like a first grader who knows recess begins in 15 minutes, fiddling with his glasses, tugging at a sock, pulling one knee to the floor, bending and turning his legs. He was dressed simply in a pale green shirt, slacks and loafers.

"I've known times where I've felt terrible, but once I get to the stage and the band starts with the music, I don't know why but it's like you have pain and take an aspirin, and you don't feel it no more," said Charles, who is touring with B.B. King this fall.

The high and low moments of the singer's life are all on record, from the driving beat

of I've Got a Woman to the beautiful ballad That Lucky Old Sun and his most famous hit Georgia On My Mind.

"The way I see it," Charles said, "we're actors, but musical ones. ... We're doing it with notes, and lyrics with notes, telling a story. I can take an audience and get 'em into a frenzy so they'll almost riot, and yet I can sit there so you can almost hear a pin drop."

He was born Ray Charles Robinson on Sept. 23, 1930, in Albany, Georgia. His father, Bailey Robinson, was a mechanic and a handyman, and his mother, Reather, stacked boards in a sawmill. His family moved to Gainesville, Florida, and when Charles was 6 he was stricken with glaucoma and lost his eyesight.

By the time he was 15 his parents were dead and Charles had graduated from the St. Augustine School for the Blind, where he learned to

read in Braille and to play piano and clarinet.

He moved to Seattle, dropped his last name (in deference to boxer Sugar Ray Robinson) and patterned himself after crooner Nat "King" Cole. He also formed a group that backed rhythm 'n' blues singer Ruth Brown.

Charles developed quickly. Atlantic Records purchased his contract from Swingtime Records in 1952, and two years later he recorded I've Got a Woman, a raw mixture of gospel and rhythm 'n' blues, inventing what was later called soul.

Soon, he was being called "the genius."

"If I look back on the earlier years, it just seems like to me I can see myself growing in the music," he said. "I was doing whatever felt good to me at the time."

The bad times, a heroin addiction that led to several arrests and forced him to take

a year off in the mid-1960s, are well behind him.

He once spoke of crying on stage if a song especially moved him, but that doesn't happen anymore. At a recent gig at New York's The Blue Note, Charles breezed through a 60-minute set that featured Georgia, the rocking Smack Dab in the Middle and Don't Set Me Free, I Can't Stop Loving You and What'd I Say, his closing number for three decades.

The audience couldn't stop clapping.

"I've never been nervous," he said. "I didn't know you were supposed to be nervous when you got on the stage. When I played Carnegie Hall for the first time people would say, 'weren't you nervous?' I didn't feel nervous because I was so keyed up, so ecstatic and so happy about having the opportunity to play in Carnegie Hall."

Bodyguards may be all right



Ray Charles

for Prince and Michael Jackson, but not for Ray Charles. Crowds don't faze him.

"When I walk through I know all they want to do is touch me. What's wrong with letting them touch me? They don't want to hurt me," he said, his voice rising in mock hysteria. "I can't believe all these big guys, 'don't touch him because he's a piece of gold.'"

"I figure if anybody wants to harm me, all they got to do is sit in the audience and pick me off because I'm up there at the piano and I'm wide open. The public was never given me anything but love and if they want to touch me, let them touch me. Now, does that tell you something?"

450 years later, El Greco's hometown celebrates the artist

By Nikos Konstandaras
The Associated Press

IRAKLION, Greece — It took more than four centuries for Iraklion to hold a major exhibit of paintings by native son El Greco, but it decided to hurry in celebrating his 450th birthday and held the show a year early.

Domenikos Theotocopoulos, as the artist was born and as he signed his work, is represented by 30 paintings, five cons by a wealth of documents and books illuminating his life.

He died in Toledo, Spain, in 1614. It was there that the visionary artist became known as El Greco — the Greek — and created his mannerist masterpieces.

His flamelike lines, brightly lit figures and elongated, distorted forms depicting religious ecstasy and ascetic nobility have been brought to his hometown on Crete for the first time. They are on display at the Basilica of St. Mark.

Although it is believed that Theotocopoulos was born in 1541, Iraklion held his 450th anniversary this year.

"We guessed that next year major museums will be holding their own exhibitions and we wouldn't be able to get any paintings. We wanted to get in first," said Nikos Hadjiniolaou, professor of art history at the University of Crete.

He spent two years organizing the exhibition.

For Crete, the exhibition of El Greco's work and life has become a source of pride, with over 2,500 people flocking to it daily since its inauguration on Sept. 1. It runs until Oct. 10.

A five-day international congress on his life and work pointed out the Greek and Byzantine influences in El Greco's work and illuminated aspects of his life in Crete.

Iraklion was a busy port called Candia, controlled by the Venetian Republic, when Theotocopoulos left in about 1570 to study under Titian in Italy.

The city does not own a single painting by its most famous son.

But it certainly remembers him. Overlooking the basilica square is the huge neon sign of the El Greco Hotel. Further away is the Theotocopoulos Hotel.

"The atmosphere at the exhibition is very interesting. We see people here who have never been to an exhibition," Hadjiniolaou said in an interview.

"It is a symbolic honour by us to a young artist who lived and worked here... before making a great career abroad. We owe it to honour someone who honours us," he said.

The costs were borne by private donors and the government of this city of about 100,000 people. Hadjiniolaou would not specify what

they were.

When the carefully wrapped paintings began arriving from museums in Washington and Leningrad, crowds gathered and applauded every time a crate was lowered from a truck.

Irene Florou, a historian at the Athens School of Fine Arts, believes that the exhibition could inspire Cretans and remind them of the flowering of art and literature the island experienced in the 16th and 17th centuries.

At that time, painters such as Theotocopoulos and Mihailis Damaskinos picked up the Byzantine tradition. Writers such as Vincenzo Kornaros and Giorgos Hortatzis wrote Venetian-inspired epics that are sung to this day in the distinctive Cretan dialect in remote villages.

"One swallow does not herald the spring, but it is better than no swallow at all," Florou said in an interview.

"This exhibition creates a counterbalance to the general climate of the time. People will be reminded that there is more to life than huying cars and building hotels. They will remember the arts that they carry about inside them."

Crete is currently enjoying an unprecedented economic boom, with high European community subsidies for agriculture and hotels being built for tourists lured by the island's beauty.

Hadjiniolaou says that the city hopes to find a way to gather £ 850,000 (\$ 1.6 million) to buy El Greco's View of Mount Sinai and the Monastery of St. Catherine, currently in a private collection in Vienna.

"Fortunately, both candidates for mayor in the (October) municipal elections support our effort," he said.

The congress on El Greco held at Iraklion's Harbour Fortress in early September was the second major gathering to discuss the painter.

The first was in Toledo in 1982. No Greeks were invited to it and there was no mention of the Greek side of his life and work, Hadjiniolaou said.

"This was a small reply to their 'El Greco of Toledo.' Our catalogue is called 'El Greco of Crete.' A quarter of the speeches concerned El Greco's Cretan period."

Most of El Greco's work in Crete was on icons.

One of the major results of the congress was that participants appeared to have accepted the authenticity of an icon found on the Aegean Island of Syros bearing Domenikos Theotocopoulos' signature.

It was discovered in 1983 and would have been painted when the artist was in his early 20s.

"There were many doubts over its authenticity before the congress," said Hadjiniolaou. "But during the congress those who had expressed doubts remained silent."

More state funding in the short run, however, is improbable, and the national film industry seems likely to remain a flickering image.

Adult-theme films expected to follow banishment of X rating

By Ronald Clarke
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood studios are set to release a wave of films with strong sexual and adult content because of the industry's decision to banish the American X rating on pictures, film experts said.

Groups representing U.S. Protestant and Catholic Churches lodged a strong protest against the Motion Picture Association of America's decision to drop the

X rating in favour of a new rating called NC 17 (no children under 17).

Spokesmen for the National Council of Churches and the U.S. Catholic Conference said the (MPAA) had caved in to "the commercial interests of those are attempting to get sexually exploitative material into general theatrical release."

The two groups called on the industry to rescind its decision and on local theatre owners not to show the films.

The first film to test the new

rating system will be Universal Pictures' Henry And June, the story of a 1931 love affair involving author Henry Miller, his wife June and writer Anaïs Nin and featuring scenes of lesbian love-making.

Producers and studios have in the past rejected powerful scripts with strong themes because they feared they would receive an X rating, which meant the film would not be shown in local cinemas but in movie houses catering to pornography.

Jack Valenti, the head of

the MPAA which represents Hollywood studios, said his group had changed its X rating, which he instigated 22 years ago, to NC-17. Henry And June, which received an X rating, is now expected to apply for the new rating.

"We had an X rating that conveyed the wrong thing," Tom Pollock, head of Universal Pictures, said. "It is better to have a category that can work with honour to replace the X, which had a stigma."

The association will also clarify its R rating, which allows children to see such

films only if the children are accompanied by an adult. The association will tell parents whether such films contain violence, sex, explicit language, drug use or suicide.

The rating changes follow a year of controversy over X ratings given to a string of films which were considered by producers to be adult in content but not pornographic.

Several independent and foreign films, including The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover, Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer, and the Spanish language Tie Me Up

Tie Me Down were finally distributed without any rating, meaning many theatres refused to show them.

In 1969, the X-rated Midnight Cowboy received three Oscars, including one for best film and one for British director John Schlesinger. Last Tango In Paris, starring Marlon Brando, was released in 1973 with an X rating.

In recent years not only would many theatres not book X films, but newspapers and television stations would not accept advertisements for them.

The Moulin Rouge marks 100th anniversary

By Camille Hérissou

PARIS — In 1889, the World Fair was in full swing and the first visitors to the Eiffel Tower climbed its 100 metres. It was then that in Place Blanche, at the foot of Montmartre hill, the scarlet sails of the Moulin Rouge (red windmill), the new Parisian haunt of pleasure, started going round. This cabaret quickly found itself on the circuit of the Grand Dukes.

Last autumn, this prestigious establishment celebrated a century of sequins and diamonds, a century of French cancan, extravagance and liberated fantasies. It was a picturesque, colourful fresco of naughty Paris, haunted by the shadows of so many famous people.

First of all, there was Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, who made the Moulin Rouge famous in its early days. He was a disabled painter and, from the time it opened, he was a regular patron. He was there every evening, in the front row, with his moustache dipping into his glass of cognac, his eyes glued to the dancers and their frothy underwear, out of which flashes of pink flesh appeared when they threw their legs behind their shoulders.

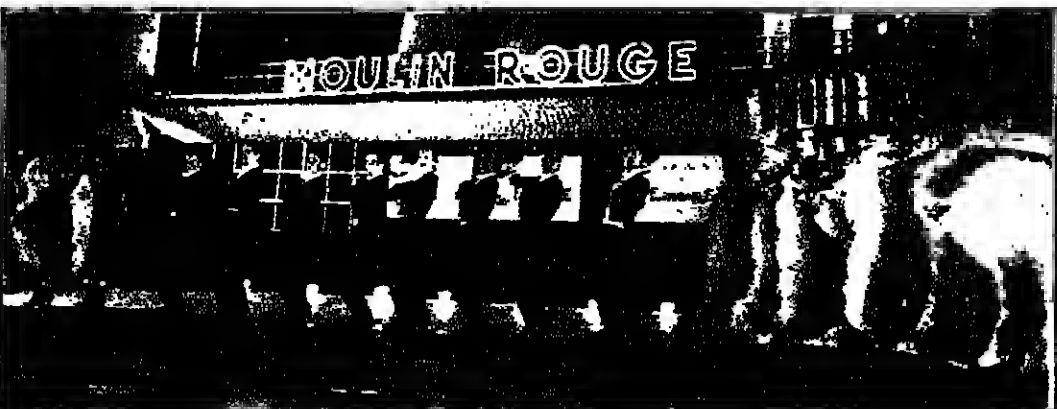
He "knew" all of these girls, with their buns and black stockings and he used them as models, in the daytime, for his paintings and posters. He knew, better than anyone else, that "the fête was just show, and that, behind the beautiful dresses, the colours, and the joy of living, lurked vice, infamy and death," as Jacques Pessis, a historian of the Moulin Rouge wrote.

Among the cabaret's ephemeral glories was "La Goulue" (the greedy one), so called because she used to drain the dregs of spectators' glasses. She always used to turn up for rehearsals with a little goat on a lead. La Goulue was to fall on hard times, after appearing in films putting her head in a lion's mouth. She was to be seen later on selling peanuts, ... outside the door of the Moulin Rouge.

There was also Yvette Guilbert, the flamboyant redhead. She told the brilliant midjet (Toulouse Lautrec) that he was the "Quasimodo of Art." And Jane Avril, the society woman, who was the former mistress of Auguste Renoir and of the humorist Alphonse Allais. Lautrec developed a passion for her, although he found she had the "little face of a funeral rat."

Then there was "La Torpille" (the torpedo), "Thérondelle" (the swallow), "Grille d'égout" (sewer grating), and "La Sauterelle" (the grasshopper). They were the queens of Paris-having-fun. They fascinated the gentlemen dressed in black, with their top hats and waxed moustaches, who arrived at the Moulin Rouge in phaetons.

After the Belle Epoque and the Lautrec years, came Mistinguett. The star made her debut on the stage of the Moulin Rouge in 1908 in a swaying waltz, and then in the tawdry finery of a Paris ruffian as "La Môme Tires-Bouchon" (the corkscrew



The Moulin Rouge in Paris

kid). Seventeen years later, she had become the leading lady of the shows. With her working-class bantering, her famous legs and her liveliness, (her authority too), "La Miss," as she became known, led reviews which people came from all over the world to applaud: "Cà c'est Paris," "Paris qui tourne," "Paris qui Jazz," etc.

There is not a music-hall star who did not appear on the Moulin Rouge stage at some time: Claudius, Fragon, Georgius, Mayol... Maurice Chevalier's boater quickly be-

came famous there. And the corridors echoed with the stormy love affair of "La Miss" and the "boy" (Chevalier) promised for fame. She also engaged a beginner, with all the looks of a "bad boy" for her show. He was to have an exceptional career in cinema: Jean Gabin.

After the World War II, Edith Piaf, in turn, was to give Yves Montand his chance on the Montmartre stage. The Moulin Rouge was also to bill Trenet, Aznavour, Bourvil, Fernand Raynaud and a few others, in their early days.

After a century of the splits, high-kicks ribald "come-hither" songs, the Moulin Rouge, which is both a hot-house for young talent and a temple of good natured naughtiness, remains a Parisian institution, just like the Eiffel Tower.

"Even more beautiful at night, when the sky becomes covered with stars, the Moulin Rouge watches over Paris, like a citadel," sing the girls, kicking their legs, in their rustling outfits — L'Actualité en France.

Good reviews, bad box office prompts reassessment of Argentine film industry

By Ed McCullough
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Elisio Subiela's latest movie suffered the usual fate of a good Argentine film.

Last Images of a Shipwreck won best script, best actress and best movie honours at film festivals in Montreal, Havana and Biarritz last year. At home, about 50,000 Argentines paid to see Subiela's film.

"I'm proud of it... (but) economically, it was a disaster," he said in a recent interview.

Commercial success was less important a few years ago

when the government spent millions of dollars to underwrite production costs and when Argentines, avid moviegoers, each paid to see two to three films a year.

These days, ticket sales — a portion of which goes to the National Institute of Cinematography to finance new films — are vital.

Since President Carlos Menem took office 13 months ago amid hyperinflation and recession, state funds have dried up. Just as troubling to producers and directors, more and more Argentines are watching movies at home on videotape or cable television.

After a peak of \$11 million

in 1985, the government allotted the National Film Institute about \$6.5 million in 1988 and 1989.

"This year, we asked for \$7 million. By the end of June, we received only \$200,000," said institute spokesman Ernesto Mariano.

"Crisis" is the word used by the director of the National Film Institute, Octavio Getino, to describe the industry that once set the pace for Latin America.

Overall attendance dropped to 25 million (M) last year — fewer than one movie per person — from 64 million (M) in 1984. Nearly four of every 10 theatres open five years

ago have shut down.

The decline in attendance at Argentine-made films was even steeper: To 1.2 million from 11.6 million. In 1987, five of the top 10 films were Argentine. Last year, only two were.

As few as seven Argentine films will be made this year, compared to about 40 in 1986. Only successful directors like Subiela and Maria Luisa Bernberg can arrange financing, much of which comes from other countries. Actors seek work overseas.

Norma Aleandro received several best actress awards for The Official Story, winner of the 1985 Oscar for Best Fore-

ign Film. Her latest movie, One Man's Fight, was filmed in Mexico and financed by a television station in England.

Luis Puenzo scripted and directed The Official Story, the tale of a woman who learns the baby she adopted was taken from a couple who "disappeared" during Argentina's last dictatorship. His latest film, Gringo Viejo, premiered last year. It was filmed in Mexico and starred Jane Fonda and Gregory Peck.

In the 1940s and early '50s, Buenos Aires was a sort of Hollywood south. Five production companies churned out dozens of films a year, mostly lowbrow comedies that

were hits up and down the continent.

The 1980s, in contrast, saw films with political and social messages honoured at Cannes and screened in New York and Los Angeles.

The 1976-83 military dictatorship provided rich material for filmmakers: Innocent lives brutally torn apart, families living in fear or exile, the futile 1982 Falklands Islands War with Britain.

None could have been filmed during the regime that censored 727 films, including Federico Fellini's Satyricon, Robert Altman's M.A.S.H., Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange and Constantino Costa-Gavras' State Of Siege.

It's never been easy to make a movie in Argentina. Carlos Sorin makes that point indirectly in the King's Movie, a whimsical 1985 film about a 19th century adventurer who briefly ruled the araucanian Indians in Patagonia.

In the plot within a plot, funds ran out, the cast quit and the director rides in place of the adventurer through an army of mannequins. In the final scene he brainstorms his next project.

An underlying theme in the current crisis is who will put Argentina's ideas, music, vistas, and people on film if the country becomes merely a backdrop for foreign productions.

"The Argentine film industry is the only (one) in the world that can create the image of what we are — make a photograph of us... be a mirror of Argentines... show the rhythm, the light, the music of Argentina," Getino said.

Subiela, vice president of the Argentine Film Directors Association, argues that state resources are essential and suggests the lack of such funding, "given the consequences... may be seen as a sophisticated form of censorship."

More state funding in the short run, however, is improbable, and the national film industry seems likely to remain a flickering image.

Study finds no link between cancers, nuclear facilities

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A two-year government survey shows no increased risk of death from cancer for people living in or near areas with nuclear plants, the Department of Health and Human Services has said.

But the study's head researcher cautioned that the survey methods did not permit an assessment of risks in more limited areas around a facility — one of the flaws cited by groups concerned about the health and environmental effects of nuclear power.

The mortality survey conducted by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) involved 107 U.S. counties containing or close to 62 nuclear facilities.

Those facilities include 52 commercial plants, nine Energy Department research and weapons plants and one commercial fuel-reprocessing plant. All began operation before 1982.

Cancer Institute researchers examined deaths from 16 types of cancer, including leukemia, the study said. Cancer death rates in the 107 counties with or near nuclear facilities were compared to cancer rates in a control group of 292 similar counties with no nuclear facilities nearby.

Some of the 107 counties had higher rates of certain cancers than the control counties and some had lower rates, either before or after the facilities came on line.

"There was no convincing evidence of any increased risk of death from any of the cancers we surveyed due to living near nuclear facilities," said John Boice, chief of NCI's radiation epidemiology

branch. Starting in 1987, the NCI scientists surveyed more than 900,000 cancer deaths using county mortality records collected from 1950 to 1984. They evaluated changes in mortality rates for 16 types of cancer from 1950 to the date facility started operation, and from the start of operation until 1984. More than 1.8 million cancer deaths were studied in the 292 control counties.

Michael Mariotte, director of the Nuclear Information and Research Service, said his national network of 1,000 environmental groups considers the NCI research incomplete and misleading.

"Their methodology was not designed to find anything," Mariotte said.

Mariotte said cancer has a long latency period and victims don't die from it instantly.

"Most of these plants haven't been up long enough for people who have developed cancers to die from them," he said. "You have to look at the incidence of cancer rather than the mortality."

The other main problem, he said, is that the county-wide data does not specifically address the population most at risk—people living downwind of the plants. "These are the people where you would expect the maximum exposures," he said. "You really have to look at meteorological data."

The NCI survey was

Dramatic rise in number of allergy sufferers

By Karl Stankiewicz

CARPETS and wallpaper are taboo in Germany's first ecological clinic, a converted spa hotel at Inzell in the Bavarian Alps. Nothing is painted, glued or insulated. No flowers or plants are allowed — except for herbal teas.

Natural timber is used, untreated except for a coating of beeswax, and natural stone, ceramics and a little unbleached wool to create an allergen-free environment. Environmental toxins are kept at bay as far as possible because the patients all suffer from the complex after-effects of substances in the air they breathe and the food and drink they consume.

Their bodies' allergic responses is frequently intensified by domestic tension or problems at work. An estimated 25 million (out of just over 60 million) Germans in the Federal Republic suffer from an allergy.

"Their number has increased drastically," says Hans-Peter Friedrichsen, the clinic's chief surgeon, "and few now doubt that environmental influences are to blame."

Dr. Friedrichsen heads the Veramed Clinic for Holistic Allergy Treatment and Environmental Medicine. It has 135 beds and at DM240 a day is less expensive than most special clinics. Most health insurance schemes pay its fees without question. The treatment is unusual for diagnosis onward.

In an inhalation chamber patients suffering from bronchial asthma of unknown origin are exposed to an air mixture including suspect substances from their accustomed domestic or job surroundings.

They might be carpet glue or furniture varnish or a cleansing agent. After half an

hour to an hour staff can tell whether the patient's lung activity has changed or skin has turned red.

In the air we breathe indoors there can be several hundred chemical substances, many of which are clearly harmful to health and can even cause cancer, Dr. Friedrichsen says, quoting surveys by U.S. environmental clinics where he worked for several years.

Inzell staff also carry out detective work in patients' digestive tracts and intestines to identify environmental allergens. The human skin has a surface area of two square metres, the lungs one of between 80 and 100 square metres. The mucous membranes of the digestive system cover an area of between 300 and 400 square metres.

Much greater attention and importance needs to be paid to food and to substances that can affect the body via the intestines, says Dr. Friedrichsen, who is founding president of the German Society for Environmental Medicine.

Oversensitive reactions to ordinary foods appear to be increasing. The clinic's insulating ward is completely germ-free. The rooms don't even have TV sets in case electromagnetic radiation causes harm. Sheets and towels are the only textiles. The 12 beds are made of metal. The air is filtered.

The holistic approach to treatment at Inzell pays constant attention to psycho-social care of patients. Desensitisation of the patient's body is not enough.

Group and individual discussions are helpful. So are autogenic training, biofeedback and, at times, hypnosis. But the only way to help allergy patients is often to rehouse them or replace all their furniture — Frankfurt Neue Presse.

Operation Monica — a study on cholesterol

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — The big American Framingham study, which, over the years, soundly demonstrated the role of the three major risk factors of cardio-vascular disease, the major cause of death in the world, began in 1948. These causes were shown to be arterial hypertension, smoking and cholesterol.

If there is no doubt about the first two of these elements, the same no longer applies for cholesterol. There is indeed an indisputable correlation between a high level of cholesterol and the frequency and seriousness of cardio-vascular incidents and the big campaigns aimed at informing the public are amply justifiable. But it is not quite so simple and a certain number of diverse facts have gradually led doctors and biologists to revise this slightly monolithic concept.

First of all, it had been forgotten rather too much that cholesterol, isolated by Pelletier in 1769, is the basic material for the partial synthesis of several vitamins and hormones (aldosterone, cortisol, sex hormones, etc.) and, as such, is indispensable to the organism.

Moreover, biologists have

been led to examine that "dustbin" of the organism more closely and to more clearly sort out the different lipoproteins making it up. It thus became possible to insist on the role of the "alpha" group, also known as HDL or "good cholesterol" which protects the vascular system. This led to a certain number of dietary notions being drawn up.

Then it was noted that the risk factors revealed by the Framingham study were increasingly called into question as statistical studies became more thorough. This raised the question, "can this study, carried out according to North American standards on a North-American population, be unrestrictedly extended to other countries?" This led to the huge undertaking of "Operation Monica" which began in 1985 on a European scale under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and will only be completed in 1995. Four centres are taking part.

It is only the beginning of the 6th year, but a certain number of original and sometimes astonishing conclusions are emerging. The first obvious fact is that the extrapolation of situations from one country to another is

quite risky and that astonishing disparities appear. For instance, bearing in mind the average incidence of risk worked out for each region, three times as many people die from coronary thrombosis in Northern Europe (Ireland, Scotland, Finland and Siberia) as in the southern crescent passing through Barcelona, Toulouse and Rome. In figures, there are 380 deaths from coronary thrombosis for every 100,000 inhabitants in Belfast, 100 in Strasbourg, and 76 in Toulouse.

Yet there is no important difference in the average blood pressure and smoking. The total level of cholesterol shows an average of 2.38 grammes in Belfast and Toulouse and 2.18 in Strasbourg. The difference comes with the figures for the protective HDL cholesterol which comes to 0.52 in Toulouse and only 0.23 in Belfast. And yet one eats well in Toulouse and the food cannot be described as "poor"! It should be noted that a test for the level of HDL, an excellent indicator of heart risk is still not reimbursed by French Social Security.

Let us analyse the Toulouse diet factor more closely and that of heart attack victims. Generally speaking, and it is

hardly surprising, the intake of energising foods is far higher than in Belfast. Cooking is usually done in oil and, on average, fewer saturated fats (producing a high level of cholesterol), are consumed. Fish, said to have a protective effect, is eaten in equivalent amounts. The consumption of alcohol, particularly in the form of red wine, is considerably higher, as well as the amount of bread, fruit and vegetables. The protective role of the latter seems to have been firmly established. Could it be a matter of vitamin intake? Several vitamins, particularly vitamin C is taken in clearly higher amounts in Toulouse than in Belfast.

However, this study is far from being finished and, for the time being, it raises more questions than it answers. How can one explain that, in spite of food which is (too) rich, a similar way of life and an appreciably similar average level of cholesterol, death and disease from coronary ischaemia are lower in France than in most of Europe, or at least northern Europe?

And all the more so as, at the present stage of Operation Monica, other no less worrying effects appear. How can one explain that most studies show that, at any age, low



A machine to obtain an electro-cardiogram on the spot

levels of cholesterol are associated with an increased risk of cancer? Other studies reveal that with old people the risk of death is multiplied by 1.8 for those with the highest rates of cholesterol, but by 5.2 for those with the lowest rates? Identical facts are found on the level of cell

biology both for the adaptive processes of brain cells and for the functions of immunocompetent cells. Many other issues are raised leading to as many hypotheses.

Too hasty extrapolations are thus being called into question — L'Actualité en France.

Use of forceps can save a baby's life, or end it

By Yvette H. Blackman
The Associated Press

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York — The birth and quick death of Diana Perkins has focused attention on the use of forceps in the delivery room, a practice that can save a baby's life — or end it.

Ronald Loffredo, a Saratoga Springs obstetrician, was found negligent by state officials in nine of 12 births, including Diana's, that he handled over three years; in each case forceps were applied.

Loffredo and his attorney are preparing to fight a lawsuit brought by Diana's parents, the only family to sue. Diana was born on May 20, 1986. She died three days later.

Loffredo was accused of failing to determine Diana was too large for a vaginal delivery, thus neglecting to perform a Caesarean section. He also was found negligent of failing to properly assess the baby's position before using forceps, administering a uterine stimulant "in a potentially obstructed labour," using excessive force in delivery and causing unnecessary birth trauma to mother and child.

Loffredo no longer practices at Saratoga Hospital, and the State Board of Re-

gents, which oversees medical licenses, in July suspended his license for one year. Once the suspension runs out, Loffredo will be barred from delivering babies or performing gynecological surgery until he completes a retraining programme.

In fall 1988, the hospital revoked his admissions privileges after a 28-year-old woman in his care died days after delivering a healthy baby.

He has generated support among some of his longtime patients, who picketed the hospital and raised at least \$50,000 for his defence fund. "This has been ruinous, absolutely ruinous," Loffredo said in an interview.

He defended his actions in the Perkins case and criticised Saratoga Hospital for allowing itself to be goaded by the New York State Health Department. Loffredo said the hospital exonerated him after an investigation of the Perkins case, but later was forced by the Health Department to review its findings.

"None of the cases was brought about by patient complaints," said Loffredo, who has sued the Health Department and hospital.

"This process is being driven by a bureaucracy," said Loffredo's attorney.

Frederick Killeen.

Developed in 18th-century Europe, obstetrical forceps have long been questioned. Double-bladed, resembling hinged salad tongs, forceps generally are used to speed up delivery if the mother's life is in danger or if the umbilical cord is wrapped around the baby's neck. They also can be used to rotate the baby's head if it is turned away from the normal birth position.

The shallow steel or aluminum blades mold to the contours of the baby's head and the birth canal.

But even for a doctor highly skilled in their use, forceps can cause permanent injury to both patients, experts acknowledge. In some cases, forceps have left permanent indentations on the baby's skull, as well as cuts and bruises around the newborn's face, ear and head.

Actor Sylvester Stallone's delivery by forceps severed a nerve on the left side of his face, causing a permanent slur in his speech.

In the Perkins case, it was alleged the forceps left bruises on the baby's neck and one earlobe. Loffredo said the baby suffered "minor scrapes" but not enough to traumatise her.

According to the National Centre for health Statistics in

Baltimore, forceps were used in 17.4 per cent, or 625,000, of the 3.6 million live births recorded in a 1980 survey. No accurate records were kept before that, said spokesman Ken Keppel.

Frequency of forceps use has declined dramatically in most areas of the United States, partly because of high medical malpractice premiums, said Dr. Maurice Drusin, director of obstetrics at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Centre.

"It's been linked to all kinds of problems which have nothing to do with forceps at all," said Drusin, an expert in high-risk deliveries.

Loffredo, 40, estimates he used forceps in 25 per cent to 35 per cent of the 1,500 births in his 10-year practice.

David Stewart, executive director of the National Association of Parents and Professionals for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth, charges some doctors don't have the patience to wait during long labours.

"We're not against any kind of technology when it's used appropriately and for a good cause. Our organisation objects when it becomes routine," he said.

"Doctors are not trained to handle normal birth," he said. "Forceps is a piece of the

whole pathological orientation doctors have."

"A good midwife has alternative ways to handle a difficult birth. A good midwife never uses forceps."

Stewart and his Missouri-based organisation believe the United States should replace 90 per cent of its obstetricians with midwives.

But Kate Ruddon, a spokeswoman for the American College of Obstetricians and gynecologists in Washington, D.C., called it "utterly absurd" to suggest obstetricians are impatient and use forceps to speed up deliveries.

"The data on infant mortality speaks for itself," Ruddon said, citing figures that show the infant mortality rate fell from 47 per 1,000 live births in 1940 to 9.9 in 1987.

In February, a West Virginia jury awarded a couple \$15.25 million after they claimed their obstetrician used forceps in the delivery of their child when the doctor should have performed a caesarean section. The infant suffered a brain hemorrhage.

In California, Dr. Charles Wesley Turner Jr. came under scrutiny for using forceps to hasten delivery of a girl so she could be displayed on national television as possibly his area's first newborn of the year.

A healthy six-pound, 12-ounce (3.1-kilogramme) Myra Kristine Palmer was officially delivered seconds after midnight, quickly cleaned, wrapped in a blanket, stuffed into a Christmas stocking and dashed to a religious service in a television studio next door.

"We had the mother push at 11:59," Turner said. "I put the forceps on and pulled the infant out. We had her at 15 seconds after midnight."

"I used the forceps because I wanted to have the first baby of the new year," said Turner.

The California attorney general's office filed charges of gross negligence and incompetence against Turner on Aug. 6. Prosecutors want his license suspended or revoked.

The doctor and Myra's father, Gary Palmer, insist Brigitte Palmer went into labour prematurely and was sufficiently dilated to begin delivery.

"There was nothing done that was wrong in this case," he said. Turner, 64, said he used forceps in more than 5,000 of the more than 18,000 babies he has delivered over 43 years.

Palmer, 27, whose wife and daughter have had no complications since the birth, said he trusts Turner, who also delivered his first daughter.

Specialists hear sceptical report on origin of mystery killers

BY Rolf Andreas Zell

FIVE thousands virus specialists conferred at the International Congress Centre in Berlin. It was a major research gathering and, like the cancer congress held in Hamburg a week earlier, one of the largest conferences of its kind ever held in Germany.

The Eighth International Virological Congress totalled roughly 2,700 lectures on topics ranging from virus-transmitted plant diseases to AIDS and mystery illnesses that affect man and animals the cause of which is still unknown.

These mystery killers include BSE, or mad cow disease, scrapie, a similar complaint that affects sheep, and the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome and kuru, which affect humans.

The first high point of the Berlin congress was provided by U.S. Nobel laureate Carleton Gajdusek, who was presented with the Stuart Mudd Award, one of the most pre-

stigious scientific accolades to microbiologists.

Gajdusek outlined to his audience one of the most mysterious virus research sectors currently known, what are called unconventional viruses.

Purely hypothetical as yet, they are suspected by scientists of being to blame for mad cow disease, scrapie and the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome.

Professor Gajdusek left no doubt in his lecture that he is more than sceptical about a hypothetical virus being at blame for these diseases.

"We have spent 30 years and millions of dollars trying to identify some kind of nucleic acid as being the cause of these complaints," he said. "Yet no-one has succeeded in even as much as isolating the tiniest sample of germ substance. So we must face up to the fact that nucleic acids are simply not involved."

In their place he suggested an alternative explanation that amounts to a revolution in the biology of infectious

diseases. He and his Californian colleague Stanley Prusiner see mutant proteins as the cause of complaints hitherto attributed to "unconventional viruses."

These defective proteins form first filaments, then extensive networks known as amyloid plaques, in the nerve cells affected. They in turn destroy the cells.

What makes them particularly unusual is that they can infect animals of both the same and other species — if, that is, they exist, and their existence was beatifiedly debated at Berlin Congress.

If they do, then biologists have discovered a totally new germ principle. Infectious diseases may be triggered not just by parasites, bacteria or viruses but by simple protein molecules.

Virologists conferred in Berlin for several days before the opening session of the full congress. The topics they discussed included means of recognising and preventing infectious diseases in industrialised

and developing countries.

This topic was dealt with by the International Association of Microbiological Research Societies, representing research organisations in 58 countries.

The conclusion reached varied revolutionary developments are in the offing where methods of identifying viruses, bacteria and parasites are concerned, but serums are still not available for vaccination against many infectious diseases.

This is particularly true of the many tropical diseases, and even where serums exist they are often too expensive for widespread use in poor countries.

Victor Nussenzweig, a leading malaria research scientist, painted a sobering picture. It would be years before an effective vaccine was available, he said.

In the foreseeable future preventive medicine and drugs to treat malaria victims would thus continue to be the main weapons in the struggle

against an infectious disease that was regaining ground all over the world.

Experts sounded a much more encouraging note on methods of identifying germs, especially the polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, technique.

PCR is a method devised by molecular geneticists that has created a furor by proving highly effective at identifying the genetic substance of viruses, bacteria and parasites.

In suitable conditions it is highly sensitive and can identify a single germ in a sample. It is able to do so because it copies the germ's genetic material several million fold before analysing it.

The PCR technique has only been available for a few years but is so popular that hardly a lecture was delivered on diagnosis in which it wasn't mentioned.

"Dr. D. Wirth, a U.S. specialist in tropical medicine, demonstrated to her colleague's surprise how what is

a complicated laboratory technique can be used in field conditions in the tropical rain forest."

In Manaus, on the Amazon in Brazil, she runs a PCR laboratory in a corrugated iron hut where she tracks down the germs that cause leishmaniasis.

Yet even if better methods of diagnosing and vaccines for treating tropical diseases are developed, the Berlin congress discussions clearly showed that much remains to be done to defeat complaints that kill people by the million.

A WHO expert, J. Meegan, told the congress that three million children a year died in the tropics of illnesses such as measles, polio or diarrhoea for which there have long been safe and inexpensive vaccines.

As Johns Hopkins virologist Gordon Ada of Baltimore, Md., put it:

"The ideal vaccine must not only be safe and outstandingly effective; it must also cost no more than fifty cents" — Die Welt.

Kaifu stresses diplomatic option

(Continued from page 1)

Tokyo has earmarked \$2 billion in assistance to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey — \$600 million in soft loans and the rest in grants and technical cooperation — to help the three countries, which are the worst hit economically by the Gulf crisis.

Crown Prince Hassan explained to Kaifu Jordan's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means based on international legitimacy, Petra said. He also briefed the prime minister on the economic problems facing all sectors of the Jordanian economy in view of the close relations the Kingdom had with both Iraq and Kuwait.

Kaifu voiced appreciation for Jordan's adherence to United Nations resolutions on the Gulf crisis despite the hardships facing the Kingdom. He affirmed that Tokyo intended to extend urgent assistance to Jordan in cooperation with international bodies to address the medium and long-term effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian economy, Petra said.

His Majesty King Hussein is expected to meet with Kaifu Thursday morning after the Japanese prime minister's talks with Ramadan scheduled to be held around 8 a.m.

In speeches made at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Badran Wednesday night, both Jordan and Japan underlined the need to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"At this critical moment... I am sure that you share with us our deep worries and our sense of urgency to work together to avoid the danger of a destructive war, and the need to establish peace and stability in this region," Badran told Kaifu.

In a reply speech Kaifu stressed the close links binding Jordan and Japan. "Despite the short period of cooperation between Japan and Jordan, the friendly relations were enhanced between our countries and developed in the different fields," Kaifu said.

These links were strengthened because of the close relations between Jordan's royal family and the imperial family of Japan, he said.

Kaifu and Badran also held a formal round of talks Wednesday. Petra said the meeting dealt with developments in the Gulf crisis and the two sides stressed the need to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. They also called for an international peace conference on the Middle East and the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Badran explained to Kaifu Jordan's economic problems before and after the Gulf crisis. He also told Kaifu of the burden Jordan has had to bear to care for the thousands of evacuees who fled to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait and Jordan's compliance with U.N. sanctions. Kaifu expressed understanding of the Kingdom's difficult economic position.

Kaifu said Japan will extend assistance for economic and social development programmes in the country and continue work for achieving peace in the Middle East.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Mas'adeh and the ministers of state for prime ministry affairs and information. On the Japanese side, the deputy prime minister, the deputy foreign minister, and Japan's ambassador to Jordan attended the talks.

In a written reply to a posted question whether there was a double standard in applying international efforts to enforce United Nations Resolution 661 while other U.N. resolutions on the Middle East remain unaddressed, Kaifu reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian cause.

He called for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242, "including an Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied since 1967, recognition

of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to establishing an independent state, and recognition of Israel's right to exist."

"There has been no change whatever in our desire to see a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to this issue along these lines. Each international dispute must be settled in a fair and peaceful manner," the prime minister said. "Thus, the present efforts by the international community to implement Resolution 661 (calling for sanctions on Iraq) are in that very spirit of a fair and peaceful settlement of the present crisis in the Gulf."

In his comments after meeting Kaifu in Cairo, Mubarak said he hoped the Japanese prime minister could convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Mubarak, in a departure from his more hawkish approach to the crisis, said he still hoped for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Egyptian president said Japan had offered "a good programme" to help Egypt which would be followed by another package.

Mubarak said he supported Japan's decision to assist Jordan with immediate aid despite what he described as Amman's "differences with the community" in the crisis. He said Jordan was in need of immediate economic aid "because it has really been hurt" by the Gulf crisis.

"I fully support aid to Jordan, because it has suffered losses. Political differences may exist with Jordan... but this does not mean that we should oppose assistance to it. It did suffer," Mubarak said.

Velayati said the case of Roger Cooper, a Briton jailed on spying charges in 1985, was a judicial matter unrelated to Iran's foreign policy.

He said he had relayed Iran's "deep concern" to Britain over the case of Mahdavad Kokabi, an Iranian student jailed in Britain since last December for attempting to firebomb a London bookshop selling "The Satanic Verses."

In a statement this week, an Iranian committee campaigning on Kokabi's behalf urged Britain to release him as a sign of goodwill.

Baghdad defies the blockade

By Ali Masarwah in Baghdad

THE lobby of Al Rasheed hotel in Baghdad reverberates with life as scores of journalists and businessmen rush in and out creating a hectic and noisy atmosphere.

In the traditional downtown area near Al Souq Al Arabi, the picture is much the same (with the difference that the noise and heat appear to be 10 times higher than in the hotel); shops and streets are over-crowded with thousands of shoppers and passers-by who congest the area, giving the cars and buses trying to pass a very hard time indeed.

These scenes of striking normality and calm prevail all over Baghdad, making it hard for visitors to believe that Iraq has been living in a state of siege and impending war for the last 50 days.

Although the population of Baghdad is beginning to feel the effect of the international blockade imposed on Iraq, "as basic foodstuffs such as rice, tea, bread and sugar have been rationed, the resolve of Iraqis to withstand outside pressures and threats has by no means been weakened."

On the contrary, the hostile measures taken by the United States and other Western countries has, if anything, boosted the morale of the people of Baghdad who consider themselves the vanguard of the new "Arab awakening."

Iraqis feel they have a just cause which is worth fighting for, and many contend that taking a firm nationalist stand goes hand in hand with enduring the resulting hardships.

"During the Gulf war, life in Baghdad was, in a sense, paradoxical: living standards greatly improved and food was always abundant. Now that we face this vicious Zionist-imperialist threat, people in the city are willing to take belt-tightening measures and cut down on food consumption — this is only natural in a state of war," a shopowner in the vegetable market near Al Hurriya Bridge said.

But although some of the basic foodstuffs have been rationed, there are no signs of food shortages in the Iraqi capital, and locally-produced vegetables and fruits flood the local market.

"The rationing measures taken by the government are just of precautionary nature; we have enough wheat reserves to produce bread for at least a year," a government official told the Jordan Times. "We know this standard is going to be a long one, therefore, we have to conserve our resources," he maintained.

Although life in the Iraqi capital continues normally, Iraqis are well aware of the magnitude of the crisis and the potentially devastating results on all-out war could have on the country.

But despite the threat of war looming over the horizon, the fierce determination of not compromising national and Arab issues prevails on the streets and in the offices of decision-makers alike. Iraqis consider Kuwait to be an inseparable part of Iraq and contemplating a possible Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait draws scornful remarks and outright rejection from the Iraqi man in the street.

"By merging Kuwait with its motherland Iraq, Abu Udeh (President Saddam Hussein) has fulfilled our quest for unity and has once and for all redrawn the map which the British colonialists drew up decades ago," a taxi driver declared.

Editors of the state-run newspapers Al Jumhuriya and the English language Baghdad Observer reaffirm the determination of the Iraqi government not to consider withdrawing from Kuwait, saying that the "Kuwaiti question" was no longer relevant.

"As far as we are concerned, negotiating on reestablishing Kuwait's independence and reinstating the Al Sabah family as rulers of Kuwait is out of the question," the chief editor of Al Jumhuriya newspaper Sa'd Al Bazzaz said. "The pressing issue



Iraqi women train with the people's army

now is checking American-Zionist ambitions to control the region and countering the threat of foreign forces against Iraq," he maintained.

The firm stand the Iraqi government has taken against the United States and Western countries which have massed hundreds of thousands of troops in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states appears to be extremely popular among Iraqis, and the popularity of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has soared to unprecedented heights, according to Iraqis interviewed.

"No matter what happens, whether the U.S. attacks with nuclear bombs, or if I and my children were to starve, Iraq will always follow its great leader Saddam Hussein," a shopowner in Souq Al Safa'at said.

This readiness of Iraqis to sacrifice themselves and their country for what they feel is a just cause today comes as a surprise to foreign observers, but the fact that the outcome of the Iraq-Iran

war has strengthened Iraq militarily and has boosted Iraq morale, in addition to the long-standing Iraqi tradition of no bowing to outside pressure, explain to some degree the reason behind Iraq's position in the current crisis.

The impressive monument to the martyrs of Saddam's Qadisiya, established in the memory of Iraqi soldiers killed in the 8-year war with Iran, the fabulous splendour of Baghdad's ancient mosques and churches the thousand year old Mustansiriyah University and the numerous museums and other historic landmarks of Baghdad impress on the visitor a determination unheard of in the rest of the Arab World to fight until the end for the aim and ideals of all Arabs. "This is our destiny," said Iraqi official. "What will happen, will happen, but we are not going to give up our rights or give in to domination and hegemony of foreign powers in the Arab home land."

Jordan shares Soviet view

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

In an arrival statement here, the Soviet envoy said his visit to Jordan was for consultations with the King on the outstanding issues of the region. The Soviet leadership, he said, "believes there is room for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis."

Primakov was scheduled to fly to Baghdad Thursday for talks likely to focus on the fate of 5,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq.

In New York, Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze said Primakov was on his way to Baghdad in a bid to arrange conditions for the evacuation of Soviet citizens from Iraq.

Speaking to reporters before a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Shevardnadze was asked why Primakov, a member of Gorbachev's presidential council, had been dispatched to Iraq.

"To arrange normal conditions for the withdrawal of Soviet citizens from that country. We have about 5,000 persons there," said Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze said "some problems and difficulties" had arisen for Soviet citizens in Iraq. They include some 150 military personnel and several hundred more civilians working as military advisers to the Iraqi army.

Iraq has withheld exit permits for 870 oil industry workers in southern Iraq and 372 builders on the Yuzfina thermal power plant near Baghdad, a Soviet Foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

He said 5,174 Soviet nationals remained in Iraq following the evacuation of 356 women, 274 children and many specialists.

Shevardnadze said Primakov hoped to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein when he arrived in Baghdad Thursday.

Moscow has so far refused to join the multinational force in the Gulf but has stepped up pressure on Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Before leaving Moscow, Primakov said the Gulf crisis gave the superpowers the chance to put into practice their new spirit of cooperation.

"There is a unique laboratory where we are testing our efforts to create a new world order after the end of the cold war," he told the influential weekly Literaturnaya Gazeta.

"Very much depends on Soviet-American solidarity, on parallel activity or joint political action, on mutual support," Primakov said in remarks published Wednesday.

The Soviet Union's highest-ranking general said Tuesday that the U.N. embargo against Iraq was working and urged that no force be used in the Gulf unless approved by the United Nations.

The position, expressed in an interview with the New York Times, was different from that of the United States, which has repeatedly said it would not rule out any option, including an attack without U.N. approval.

"We cannot view the resolution of any crisis like this by means of using arms," said General Mikhail Moiseyev, who is touring the United States with the American chief of staff, General Colin Powell.

Powell said, "we are not eliminating any of the options available to the president."

Iran announced resumption of ties with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania during Velayati's stay in New York, where he also held a fence-mending meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Sunday.

The newspaper Kayhan said there had been no decision on reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cairo, broken 11 years ago because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel.

"But Jordan has asked to establish ties with us and its request should be studied," it quoted Velayati as saying.

Jordan restored telephone and telex links with Iran last month after a 10-year break.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying there had been no preconditions for the restoration of ties with Britain.

Relations were broken off in March 1989 in the furor over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death edict against British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Britain had previously demanded the edict be rescinded before ties could be restored but Iranian leaders said the order was irrevocable.

After the announcement in New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said only that Iran had repeated its commitment not to interfere in Britain's internal affairs.

Iran announced resumption of ties with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania during Velayati's stay in New York, where he also held a fence-mending meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Sunday.

The newspaper Kayhan said there had been no decision on reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cairo, broken 11 years ago because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel.

"But Jordan has asked to establish ties with us and its request should be studied," it quoted Velayati as saying.

Jordan restored telephone and telex links with Iran last month after a 10-year break.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying there had been no preconditions for the restoration of ties with Britain.

Relations were broken off in March 1989 in the furor over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death edict against British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Britain had previously demanded the edict be rescinded before ties could be restored but Iranian leaders said the order was irrevocable.

After the announcement in New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said only that Iran had repeated its commitment not to interfere in Britain's internal affairs.

Iran to stay out of war

(Continued from page 1)

Military and political sources, including Soviet Chief of Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev and foreign Muslim leaders who visited Tehran last week, have said Iran might side with Iraq if war broke out.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying that during his talks with foreign ministers in New York he had stressed Tehran's view that Gulf security should be looked by regional countries.

Iran announced resumption of ties with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania during Velayati's stay in New York, where he also held a fence-mending meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Sunday.

The newspaper Kayhan said there had been no decision on reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cairo, broken 11 years ago because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel.

"But Jordan has asked to establish ties with us and its request should be studied," it quoted Velayati as saying.

Jordan restored telephone and telex links with Iran last month after a 10-year break.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying there had been no preconditions for the restoration of ties with Britain.

Relations were broken off in March 1989 in the furor over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death edict against British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Britain had previously demanded the edict be rescinded before ties could be restored but Iranian leaders said the order was irrevocable.

After the announcement in New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said only that Iran had repeated its commitment not to interfere in Britain's internal affairs.

Military and political sources, including Soviet Chief of Staff General Mikhail Moiseyev and foreign Muslim leaders who visited Tehran last week, have said Iran might side with Iraq if war broke out.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying that during his talks with foreign ministers in New York he had stressed Tehran's view that Gulf security should be looked by regional countries.

Iran announced resumption of ties with Britain, Tunisia and Mauritania during Velayati's stay in New York, where he also held a fence-mending meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Sunday.

The newspaper Kayhan said there had been no decision on reestablishing diplomatic relations with Cairo, broken 11 years ago because of Egypt's separate peace treaty with Israel.

"But Jordan has asked to establish ties with us and its request should be studied," it quoted Velayati as saying.

Jordan restored telephone and telex links with Iran last month after a 10-year break.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying there had been no preconditions for the restoration of ties with Britain.

Relations were broken off in March 1989 in the furor over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death edict against British author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Britain had previously demanded the edict be rescinded before ties could be restored but Iranian leaders said the order was irrevocable.

After the announcement in New York, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said only that Iran had repeated its commitment not to interfere in Britain's internal affairs.

Saddam Hussein visits Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

Baker spoke at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of 35 foreign ministers to prepare for a European security conference summit meeting in Paris Nov. 19-21.

Asked if the United States had begun to draft a resolution in which the U.N. Security Council would authorize military force against Iraq, as reported Sunday by the Associated Press and Newsweek magazine, Baker replied:

"There has been no decision taken at the top levels of this government with respect to going forward now with respect to a particular resolution."

U.S. officials told the AP Sunday drafting of a resolution had begun by the United States, the Soviet Union and other governments.

European and North American foreign ministers Tuesday called on Iraq to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait but said they sought a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

A statement issued after a meeting of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In other developments:

British members of parliament said Wednesday Saudi Arabia was growing impatient at the standoff between Iraqi and allied forces in the Gulf.

The massive air superiority of U.S.,

Saudi and other forces was the key to victory in the event of war, but it would still be difficult for the allies to advance on the ground, they said in a news conference in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The airlift of U.S. troops and equipment into Saudi Arabia would be complete in a week and Iraq could no longer hope to win a war, they added.

"Many of the Saudis we have met say they feel that action must be taken," Michael Colvin, chairman of the ruling Conservative Party's parliamentary aviation committee, said.

Arab states called on Iraq Tuesday to pull out of Kuwait, saying Iraq's occupation hampers chances of a breakthrough in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"It is for Palestine that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait," Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told the General Assembly.

Saud said the "adventure of the Iraqi regime" must not be allowed to veil the key Arab cause — Palestine — and other Arab delegates echoed his call for attention to turn to the 1.75 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Turkey said Wednesday it had inspected seven planes while enforcing the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq and had only once had to scramble its military jets — due to a miscommunication.

The Foreign Ministry said four

Indian military transport planes, one Soviet Aeroflot airliner and a Romanian and a Polish plane were allowed to proceed after they had landed in various Turkish airfields for inspection.

Iraq's U.N. ambassador twice this week postponed his address to the General Assembly.

Originally Abdul Amir Al Anbary was to have addressed the assembly Monday. The Iraqi mission said this was postponed to Wednesday while he waited for further instructions from Baghdad.

Then the address was rescheduled until late Thursday and no reason was given.

Speculation was rampant with some Arab envoys saying perhaps Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz would deliver the speech after all. Aziz was denied permission to come to the United States on an Iraqi airliner but was told he could come on another commercial flight.

But other envoys believed Iraq was probably still studying Bush's speech to the General Assembly on Monday.

Iraq's ambassador to the United States, Mohammad Ali Mashat, told reporters Tuesday that Bush's speech "has some subtleties that have to be studied."

"At least it has pointed out the need for a political settlement, a peaceful settlement" to the Gulf crisis, he added.

make sure that the events of the past do not recur and (said) that the struggle against anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism continues."

Countries as far afield as Togo once a German colony; Turkey, Italy in World War I, and Japan, it ally in the second, welcomed unification.

An Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman compared the merger of East and West Germany with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait in August.

Quoted by the Iraqi News Agency he said: "Our people, rejoicing a regaining dear Kuwait, welcome the German unity which was declared after 45 years of division."

The spokesman, choosing a theme in other Middle Eastern reaction, said Arabs could well understand the bitter experience of the "friendly German people" because they had also suffered from disunity and divisions.

"They (Germans) were divided at the end of World War II in order to serve the strategies and selfish interests of the major powers," the spokesman said.

"The Arabs, who aspire for greater unity... view this (German) achievement as a realization of progress and peace and a prelude to better relations with Iraq and the Arab Nation," INA quoted the Iraqi official as saying.

West Germany supported the U.S. led military buildup in the Gulf since at deterring any further Iraqi attack

Iraq offers to free all French

(Continued from page 1)

plan to resolve the Gulf crisis and achieve Middle East peace had positive elements.

Mitterrand told the United Nations Sept. 25 that if Iraq withdrew from Kuwait "everything would be possible."

France denied Monday that it was engaged in any talks with Iraq or that Paris was offering to negotiate with Baghdad in return for a simple promise to quit Kuwait.

Mitterrand's spokesman said the president had stipulated the Iraqi troops must leave Kuwait before any talks could begin.

The spokesman, Hubert Vedrine, said the release of the nine Frenchmen would not alter France's demand that Iraq free all foreigners held as detainees against outside attack.

The nine Frenchmen said they were held at Baghdad hotels.

Hassan Hussein, from Madagascar, said he was held with 20 other Frenchmen at Baghdad's Novotel hotel.

About 350 French nationals are still in Iraq or Kuwait.

Munier called the release a "generous gesture" by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and called for a softening of France's headline policy towards Baghdad.

"The French policy should be changed," said Munier, who is a member of the National Front, the ultraconservative French political party headed by Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said Le Pen himself might visit Iraq to seek the release of more Frenchmen.

"I am going back to talk to French politicians about this," Munier said.

The release came just two days after Iraq said it was willing to hold contacts with the French government in an attempt to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Munier said he did not meet with Saddam, but said he was able to talk with Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and other officials. He said he intended to return to Iraq in three weeks to try to win the release of other French nationals.

About 350 French nationals are still in Iraq or Kuwait.

Munier called the release a "generous gesture" by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and called for a softening of France's headline policy towards Baghdad.

"The French policy should be changed," said Munier, who is a member of the National Front, the ultraconservative French political party headed by Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Diplomatic sources in Baghdad said Le Pen himself might visit Iraq to seek the release of more Frenchmen.

"I am going back to talk to French politicians about this," Munier said.

The release came just two days after Iraq said it was willing to hold contacts with the French government in an attempt to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Munier said he did not meet with Saddam, but said he was able to talk with Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and other officials. He said he intended to return to Iraq in three weeks to try to win the release of other French nationals.

Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

1989 against Syrian and pro-Syrian forces but now his bitter enemy.

"With our blood and souls, we will sacrifice ourselves for you, general," bellowed many of the estimated 7,000 mourners when Maronite Bishop Youssef Bshara announced he was about to speak on behalf of Papal Nuncio Paulo Pappalardo.

While the crowd bowed Pappalardo, two angry male relatives of the dead ran past the flag-draped coffins and army guards to where Bshara and other churchmen stood at a makeshift altar.

"Why didn't he (Pappalardo) come here himself? You can't read his letter," they shouted, waving their arms. Bshara then read his own speech praising the dead as "martyrs."

Organizers of the service in this east Beirut suburb later appealed over loudspeakers for calm.

Aoun supporters say Pappalardo and Maronite Patriarch Bechara Sfeir failed to back the general in his year-long power struggle with Hrwai, whom Aoun refuses to recognize.

Hrwai's government said it was determined to end Aoun's "mutiny."

But analysts said the attack bolstered the general's public support and weakened that of Hrwai and the LF.

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
Tel: 604578 804696
P.O. BOX 7808 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 604578 804696
Tel: 2225 BESMCO JO
P.O. Box 12848 AMMAN JORDAN

EASTERN

PACKING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING, AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621.775 FAX: 656.270
TLX: 23.023 POB: 815.408
AMMAN-JORDAN

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank, Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

Ricardo 1216

Amman's exclusive gift shop
Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg. Tel. 669 457

Saudi Real Estate RENTAL 687821

SALES 687822 CALL SOHA

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

For the best for your MONEY... ADVERTISE in the

RESTAURANT CHINE

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhijrah Girls School
Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 638068

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
elegant, colorful atmosphere, modern prices
Tel: 624250 (closed on Mondays)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

Milano RESTAURANT

Best Traditional Italian Pizzas
Selection of the most delicious & favorite Sandwiches
Shmeisani - P.O. Box 1200-330, P.m. 6pm - Midnight
For Take Away Call 680 670

LOBBY LOUNGE

BAR, PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Qatari soldier becomes long distance king at Asian Games

PIKING (R) — Qatari soldier Muhammad Sulaiman established himself Wednesday as Asia's premier long-distance runner, winning a second gold medal and bringing the Asian Games athletics competition to a classy finale.

The day was enlivened by China's relay teams in the men's and women's 4x100 metres. They ran around the track carrying their national flag to roars of approval from spectators celebrating their country's dominance in athletics over the past seven days.

They easily relay victories swelled China's gold medal tally in track and field to 29 out of a total of 43 at stake.

But China allowed the tiny Middle East kingdom of Qatar to steal the limelight for a third time by winning a glimmer event.

Sulaiman, who took the 1,500 metres Saturday, ran a tactically brilliant race Wednesday in only his second attempt at the 5,000 metres at international level.

The 21-year-old stayed behind the leaders for most of the race, letting Japan's Koichi Morishita and China's Zhang Guowei set the pace.

It was not until the last bend that Morishita broke away, only to be overtaken by Sulaiman just 10 metres from the finish.

Morishita fought back and dived for the finish line, but could not prevent the Qatari from winning in a new games record time of 13 minutes 50.22 seconds.

"I didn't believe I could win this event (5,000 metres) until I took the 1,500 metres," said 21-year-old Sulaiman.

Czechoslovak coach Stanislav Stroh described his Qatari ward as an exciting prospect who could have the potential of Morocco's great distance star, Said Ouita.

Like the Moroccan long distance star, Sulaiman spends much of his time training in Europe with a band of Qataris, all of whom are employed in the army in Qatar.

Stroh said Sulaiman had started serious training only a year ago, but was now being put

through a rigorous weight and sprint programme in Europe, chiefly in St Moritz, Switzerland.

His last win was in the Budapest Grand Prix in August.

Qatar won its first gold medal with a win by Talal Mansoor in the games' centrepiece event — the 100 metres — Friday and picked up a silver in the 400 metres through Ibrahim Mufah.

Pakistan was another underdog country that won a gold medal Wednesday, unexpectedly snatching a 400 metres hurdles victory through policeman Ghulam Abbas. He dived for the finish to edge out South Korean Hwang Hong-Chul. China's Gao Yonghong was third.

"I'm proud of my victory, especially to achieve it in China from whose athletes I have learned so much," Abbas said.

His triumph rubbed salt in the wounds of sub-continental rivals India, who finished the athletics competition without a gold medal for the first time in an Asian Games.

Their chief athletics coach, Joginder Singh Saini, announced his resignation, accepting responsibility for the debacle moments after P.T. Usha led the women's 4x100 metres relay team home in an anti-climactic second place behind China.

The race brought to a sad end Usha's glittering track career in which she dominated events from the 100 metres to the 400 metres hurdles in the past 10 years.

Usha, who failed to win a gold medal in five attempts in Peking has said would retire and marry a man her parents chose after the Peking games.

The major track and field powers also had their victories Wednesday, with Japan winning the 200 metres and South Korea taking the gold and silver medals in the men's 800 metres.

China took the other six events including the women's discus, the men's high jump, the men's triple jump and the heptathlon, won by Ma Mianlan, 20, with 6,231 points. She pushed veteran team-

mate Dong Yuping, competing with a damaged knee, into second place, but failed to break her own Asian record of 6,306.

The 200 metres saw Susumu Takano, once ranked among the fastest in the world in the 400 metres, switch successfully to the shorter event. He held off fast-finishing Sri Lankan Sriyantha Dissanayake to win the gold medal in 20.94. Dissanayake clocked 21.17 seconds and China's Zhao Canlin was third in 21.28 seconds.

The time was behind the Asian Games record of 20.71 seconds set by South Korea's Chang Jaekum in Seoul four years ago. Chang Wednesday could only finish seventh.

South Korea got its share of glory in the 800 metres in which Kim bong-Yun and Ryu Tae-Kyung took gold and silver hocking out their rivals in a bruising race.

Ryu, the South Korean number one, said he had been jostled by rivals thinking he was the runner to beat. This left the field clear for Kim to win in one minute 49.43 seconds, two and half seconds slower than the games record.

The women's 1,500 metres was an equally rough contest in which China's Zheng Lijuan and Jiang Shuling kept the competition out of the gold and silver medals through a mixture of wily tactics and strong arm methods.

Zheng denied using the rough tactics, but it was clear the two Chinese had boxed in Burma's valiant Khin Khinhtwe on the final bend before the start to the finish. Zheng won in four minutes, 23.11 seconds.

Syrian boxer gets gold

Syrian boxer Ahmadmayz Khanji set artistic concerns aside and pummeled his Japanese opponent to win his country's first gold medal at the Asian Games Wednesday.

Khanji, gold medalist at the Mediterranean Games in 1987

and Arab championship winner in 1986, outpointed Kunihiko Miura of Japan to win the light welterweight title on points.

Syrian fans cheered so wildly that security men had to keep asking them to sit down.

They cheered Khanji on as he went on the offensive from the first round, delivering a flurry of blows that nearly knocked off Miura's helmet.

The bloodied Japanese, tired and staggering, barely managed to last the distance as the Syrian was declared winner on points.

It was Khanji's second victory over Miura. The first was at the Asian Boxing Championships in Wuhan, China, in 1989, on the way to a silver medal.

"There will not be much art in the fight. He will concentrate on the gold medal," teammate Mustafa Agha predicted accurately just before the bout.

The victory rocketed Syria from 20th on the medals table to 13th. It also won Khanji a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, an honour granted to all victorious Syrian athletes.

Khanji lives in a house given to him by the president.

Roberto Jalaiz of the Philippines used a left jab and two crushing rights to knock down his South Korean opponent in the 43 kilograms boxing championship and win his country's first Asian Games gold medal.

The 23-year-old soldier avenged losses to Hwang Kyung-Sup in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and last year's Asian championships in Peking by stopping his opponent with three seconds left in the first round.

Hwang, who slipped down once early in the round, sagged under the punishing blows.

He tried to get up but in vain. The referee stopped the fight.

"We studied the tapes of (Hwang's) previous fights," said Philippine coach Reynaldo Fortaleza. "We knew that one punch would do it."

The victory makes a nice wedding present for Jalaiz, who plans to tie the knot later this year.

Edberg, Lendl move to 3rd round at Australian indoor

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — World number nine Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia each scored second-round victories Wednesday in the \$1 million Australian Indoor Tennis Championship.

Edberg downed compatriot Niclas Kroon 6-3, 6-2 while No. 3 seed Lendl rallied from a second-set slump to defeat Finnish teenager Aki Rahunen 6-0, 3-6, 6-0.

Ninth-seeded American David Wheaton and unseeded trio Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, Todd Woodbridge of Australia and Patrick Kuhn of West Germany also progressed to the round of 16.

Wheaton beat Australian qualifier Sandon Stolle 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 while Woodbridge stunned No. 4 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 after Gilbert held nine set points in the first set.

Haarhuis ousted No. 12 seed Derrick Rostagno of the United States 7-6 (7-3), 6-4, while Kuhn eased past No. 7 seed Richard Fromberg of Australia 7-6 (7-4), 6-2.

Lendl breezed through the first set against an aggressive Rahunen in just 22 minutes, but needed almost two hours to clinch the win.

Sweden faces difficult start in Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — Four times champions Sweden were given a difficult start in the Davis Cup Tennis World Group Wednesday with an away tie against Yugoslavia to open the 1991 competition.

The Swedes, surprisingly knocked out in the first round this year, could then face Austria and this year's finalists, Australia.

Sweden were at least kept apart from Italy, the side who beat them in this year's opening round.

Under Davis Cup rules, the two teams were put in opposite halves of the draw because they have met in the first round for the last two years.

The Italians will instead play an away tie against 1988 and 1989 champions Germany.

Australia, who contest this year's final against the United States in St. Petersburg, Florida, at the end of next month, have the easiest of starts — on paper at least — to their 1991 campaign.

They have a home tie against qualifiers Belgium, making their World Group debut.

The Americans should also have a relatively easy beginning with an away tie against Mexico, the side they beat 4-0 in the first round this year. They would then face seeded Spain or Canada, another newcomer to the top group.

In a bid to make the five-match ties more interesting, Davis Cup organisers have ruled that the top two singles players in each team will not meet until the third and final day.

The International Tennis Federation hope the change, being introduced as an experiment next year, will make it harder for one team to build up a winning 3-0 lead in the first two days, a practice which reduces the final singles rubbers to dead matches.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon pace today is no less demanding than you anticipated but the double square does put a crimp in your immediate schedule. Go with the flow and get as much done as possible.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discount some middled thinking on the part of an associate early, then full speed ahead to show your ability to get business affairs well handled.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some business situation is not to you liking early but put off solving until later while you study new and more interesting ways to function.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Pleasures should be postponed until a more propitious time while you intelligently handle whatever obligations that you are committed to.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put aside a home anxiety until a different moment and contact outside opportunities that can bring you more worldly acclaim.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Scattering your forces now would only make any interests non-productive and instead concentrate upon work to be perfected and do so with experts aid.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take up money matters at a more sensible time while you now exercise some ability which can bring your creative talents to the front quickly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are not thinking clearly today so don't make judgement now but instead you will be able to do what you can bring more accord with your family.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is not good for you to null over the matter that is an enigma to you but rather to get out and do those activities awaiting your attention.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A friend of unusual views can waste your time in the morning if you permit and instead be very practical about sticking to your practical affairs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't get in some worldly dispute in the morning and consider on a constructive level what you can do to obtain personal aims more readily.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget getting into some unknown situation early and instead look at whatever is of importance but unfinished and complete that rightly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Steer clear of promises you are not sure just what to do about and get together with close confidantes and be guided by their suggestions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 4, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Full Moon in Aries early this morning makes it more than likely that a change in plans and your life will be a change for the best. Come to a new meeting of minds now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Today brings into sharp focus both matters connected with your basic urges and family interests on the one hand and on the other career and worldly outlets.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some conditions from afar can take precedence over those closer at hand today and after you have analysed them, utilize them in your everyday affairs.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some very practical opportunities now to handle whatever of a financial or business nature arises so do so it will increase your property value.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) In essential you get the support and backing of a worldly minded individual before you put in a plan personally desired to be done by you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) The manner in which you organize your daily activities will depend upon the results you get in ridding self of some limiting, restrictive condition.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise to yourself to make arrangements for whatever pleasures you now anticipate and do not depend upon your friends to do this for you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider whatever is required of you at your residence and do these things before you go into the public obligations to which you feel committed.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make sure you have everything of a daily routine well carried out and completed before you go off to some new interest that draws you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be very exacting about anything of a material interest to which you address yourself today and later you can do something to please another person.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It is necessary that you deal today with a person who is quite emotional or subjective so show a little compassion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel very shut in by circumstances you feel beyond your control but if you put sufficient effort in overcoming you can do so now.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you have to deal with an older and more serious friend so do early so you can free time later to have a good time with congenial companions.

Real Madrid crushes Odense 6-0 in 100th European Cup victory

MADRID (R) — A hat-trick from Sebastian Losada helped Real Madrid crush Denmark's Odense 6-0 in a European Cup first round second leg match — Real's 100th European Cup win — and storm into the second round on a 10-1 aggregate.

Odense enjoyed a brief run of play for the first 10 minutes at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium but once Losada had hooked in a 13th-minute goal at the end of a move featuring Michel Gonzalez and Emilio Butraguena, there was no stopping Real Madrid.

A penalty by Michel after Odense's Hansen downed Butraguena in the 34th minute and a strike by Adolfo Aldana at the start of the second half demoral-

ised the Danes.

Odense goalkeeper Hogn was on his own as the defence crumbled in front of him but even his determined ability failed when in the 52nd minute he failed to keep hold of the ball after a high shot from Michel.

Losada scooped it out of his arms and, with one hand on the ground, knocked in Real's 50th goal in European club soccer.

Real assaults on Hogn continued mercilessly with Losada completing his hat-trick with a low shot 17 minutes from the end. Aldana claimed his second and Real's sixth five minutes from the final whistle.

Rangers beat Valletta 6-0

In Glasgow, Maurice Johnston struck a hat-trick to help Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers swamp Valletta of Malta 6-0 on a rainy night Tuesday and swing into the second round of Soccer's European Cup on a 10-0 aggregate.

Dave Dodds began the rout in the fifth minute and 20-year-old John Spencer made it 2-0 a minute later with a goal on his first-team debut before Johnston got his name on the score-sheet in the 23rd minute.

Johnston, who scored twice in the first leg of the first round encounter, added his second goal of the night eight minutes before the interval.

Kasparov to defend title Monday

NEW YORK (AP) — A long-festering feud between the world's two best chess players, both from the Soviet Union, has erupted on American soil. There's more at stake than pride and \$3 million in prizes.

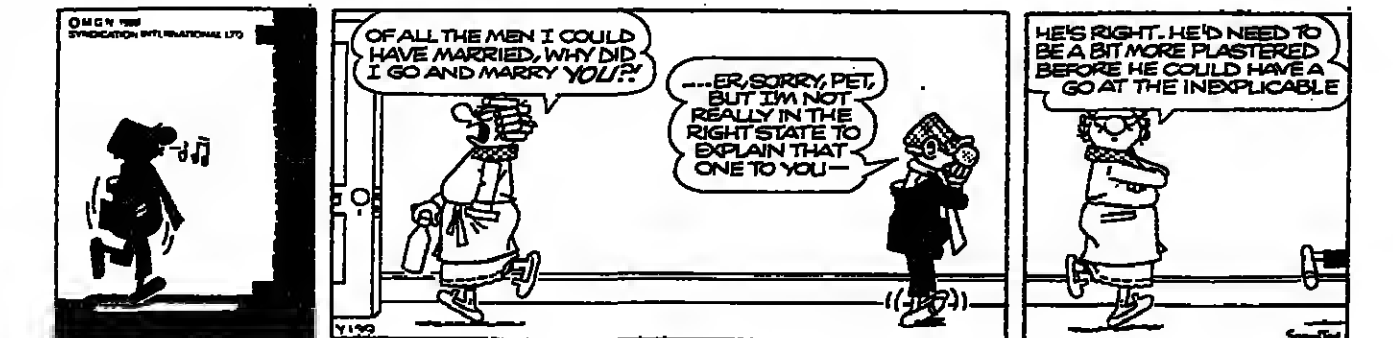
Garri Kasparov, 27, ended Anatoly Karpov's 10-year world Chess reign in 1985. On Monday, Karpov, 39, will try to wrest it back as the two meet for the first time in three years.

They warmed up for the battle at a news conference Tuesday, exchanging verbal jabs over the politics of chess and their nation.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH © 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J7 ♠ KQ9 ♠ AQJ32 ♠ QJ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner's bid of two spades is a reverse—don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You are in the slam zone and everything hinges on whether or not partner has a club control. Jump to five hearts to show slam interest with two losers in the unbid suit. Partner should have no problem knowing what to do.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K43 ♠ 1097 ♠ 942 ♠ KQ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Many players are under the impression that a jump rebid of two no trump is forcing. Not so. It is a "limit" bid showing 19-20 points and responder should go on in game only if he thinks there are sufficient values for getting home. With a flat, sub-minimum hand there is no reason for South to bid on. Pass.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A83 ♠ 10952 ♠ Q37 ♠ Q83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Bid ?
What action do you take?
A.—Since your side clearly has the balance of power, it would seem that a redouble is in order. However, consider the problem you face if West, say, bids two spades and the auction is passed round to you. Do you double, bid two no trump, pass? Spare yourself that headache by passing now and hope the opponents will allow you to play a doubled contract that might yield a juicy overtrick or two.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q42 ♠ Q1032 ♠ A95 ♠ QJ4
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—With a perfectly balanced hand, and thus no ruffing value, most players do not employ the Stayman Convention to check on a possible 4-4 major fit. We endorse that position, so we would simply raise in three no trump.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ KJ185 ♠ 74 ♠ J753 ♠ AKJ3
What is your opening bid?
A.—Normally, with 4-4 in the minors we recommend opening one diamond. Here, however, the disparity in suit quality is so great that we would go against our convictions and open one club. There is no question which suit we want led should the opponents buy the hand.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 95 ♠ AKJ83 ♠ 98 ♠ Q64
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a pretty good hand, but not quite enough to go to game without a little extra help from partner. Jump to three hearts. That is invitational, shows a good six-card suit and asks partner to decide if his hand is suitable for game.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

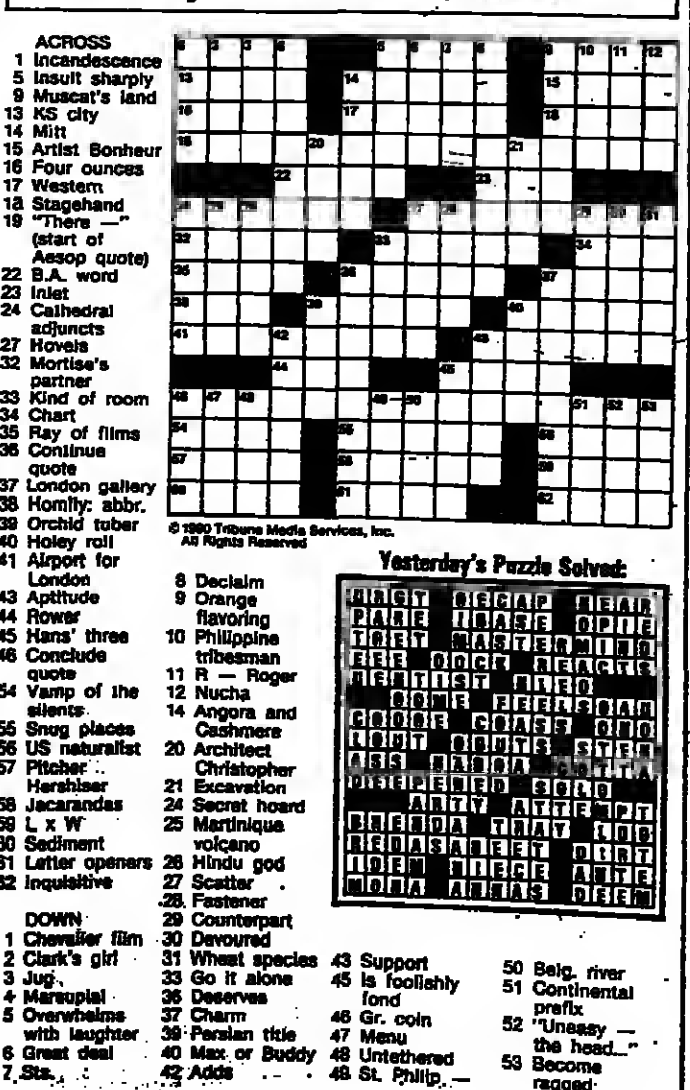
Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: OF

Yesterday's Jumble: SHEAF GUILD INFANT FLORAL
Answer: The riding academy considered going out of business when its clientele started -- -- FALLING OFF

THE Daily Crossword by Donald Groat



Algeria gives priority to clear debt arrears

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria will use an oil price windfall from the Gulf crisis to clear \$600 million in international debt arrears owed by public and private Algerian firms this year, Economy Minister Ghazi Hedouci said Wednesday.

He told a news conference repayment of the arrears, accumulated throughout the 1980s, was a priority to reestablish Algeria's credit rating on international markets.

"The first axis of our return to financial health is to pay the totality of arrears of whatever nature, public or private firms... through December 1990," he said.

Algeria, almost entirely dependent on oil and gas revenue for hard currency, will reap \$700 million above previously projected income this year assuming average world oil prices of \$26 a barrel, Hedouci said.

World oil prices had more than doubled since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, to 10-year highs of around \$40 a barrel last week, but have since fallen back to around \$35.

A government report last week put the windfall at more than \$1.4 billion, apparently based on a higher average price.

The arrears were mainly incurred by Algerian state companies on trading and construction contracts with foreign firms.

About one-third of the arrears are owed to French firms, including large chunks to Air France and the construction giant Bouygues, diplomats said.

Hedouci said Algeria hoped to be able to regain its triple-A rating on international credit markets by the end of 1991.

The country was downgraded as a result of falling oil and gas income in the last half of the 1980s and social unrest including October 1988 youth riots that prompted sweeping liberal political and economic reform.

Service on a foreign debt of more than \$24 billion now eats up almost three-quarters of hard-currency income.

Hedouci said any extra money left over after settling the arrears would go to building up central bank reserves to help strengthen the dinar, which now trades on the black market rate of one-third its official value.

A third priority would be to increase imports to boost economic growth and pull the country out of recession. Hundreds of factories are shut or working at below capacity for want of spare parts and raw materials.

He reiterated his government's policy of refusing to reschedule short-term debt, maturing before 1993, which accounts for 70 per cent of the total.

He said Algeria's improved financial situation would make it easier for it to conclude talks under way with foreign banks on a refinancing package.

The package, which Hedouci has pushed on recent visits to Japan, France and the United States, aims to refinance between \$1 billion and \$2 billion of short-term debt with new funds partly guaranteed by zero-coupon bonds.

Hedouci said that before the world oil price jump bankers had balked because of uncertainties that Algeria's external finances would improve significantly before 1992, when new gas contracts take effect.

"This obstacle has been for the most part lifted, that is the uncertainty that weighed over our capacity to increase exports from 1992," Hedouci said.

He said bankers' concerns over political instability in Algeria had also eased since local elections last June, the first free poll since independence in 1962, despite a victory by the opposition Islamic Salvation Front.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Rafidain Bank hoists interest rates

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's largest commercial bank has increased interest rates on fixed deposit and savings accounts, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The agency, in its domestic service, said the Rafidain Bank had raised its rates from seven to ten per cent on fixed deposits and from six to nine per cent for savings accounts. Rafidain is one of only three Iraqi banks, all owned by the government. More than one billion dinars (\$3.2 billion at the official rate) are held in deposit accounts, preferred by Iraqis as a way of guaranteeing a stable and higher income.

Share trading in Iran soars

NICOSIA (R) — Shares worth more than 16.4 billion riyals (\$240 million) were traded on the Tehran stock exchange in the past six months, seven times the total in the same period last year, Tehran radio reported. It said just under 3.5 million shares were traded in the half-year to Sept. 22, a rise of 333 per cent from 1989. The exchange was revived last year as part of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's plan to stimulate the private sector's role in reviving Iran's economy after the 1980-88 war with Iraq. Seventy-six companies, including cement, food and textile factories, are registered at the exchange and applications of 14 others are pending, said the radio, monitored in Nicosia.

Tunisia sets speed limits to save fuel

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia, facing rising fuel bills because of the Gulf crisis, has imposed a maximum speed of 90 kilometres an hour on its main roads as part of a programme to save energy. The plan, adopted by various ministries, limits street lighting hours and the use of air conditioning in government offices. The use of natural gas will also be encouraged to save petrol and diesel oil. Tunisia exported 4.7 million tonnes of crude oil in 1989 but had to import 3.4 million tonnes of refined petroleum products because of its limited refining capacity.

Bundesbank issues new banknotes

FRANKFURT (AP) — The West German central bank, the Bundesbank, has issued new 100 and 200 mark banknotes that it says are virtually impossible to forge. The notes also have an imprint that makes them readable to blind people. The Bundesbank said the new notes will replace old money over a period of two years. The 200-mark note introduced for the first time.

Manila to get U.S. credit, aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Philippines will get \$125 million in aid and loans tied to the purchase of U.S. exports, officials have announced. The U.S. Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank) will guarantee \$81.25 million in loans by commercial lenders and provide a \$13.75 million grant from its tied aid credit fund. The aid is to be used to finance and buy materials for power, telecommunications, construction and transportation projects. The loans and grants are the result of a study last year that indicated that the export credit agencies of Japan, Britain, France, Canada and other countries were focusing large amounts of tied aid on such projects.

Mubarak enacts law on banking secrecy

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak decreed Tuesday a law allowing secrecy in the banks of Egypt, the state-run Middle East News Agency reported.

The agency said in addition to allowing secret accounts, the law prohibits release of information about accounts to anyone except depositors or their legal agents.

It said the new law was published in the government's Official Gazette. Under the constitution, presidential decrees issued during recess of the People's Assembly, Egypt's parliament, must be approved once the parliament reconvenes.

Under the presidential decree, bank secrecy can be broken only by the order of the Cairo Court of Appeals, which has judicial authority over all of Egypt.

The legislation also allows the opening of numbered accounts, in which depositors' names are known only to specified bank officials.

Certain conditions have to be met by depositors wishing to hold secret accounts, the decree says. It gives the ministers of economy and foreign trade and the governor of the central bank authority to set the conditions, the Middle East News Agency said.

The central bank's administrative board will decide which banks will be licensed to practice secret banking, according to the presidential decree.

The law was issued to attract foreign investment to Egypt to help pay its foreign debt of around \$50 billion. It also seeks to encourage Egyptians working abroad and other Arabs to entrust their money to Egypt's banks.

Iraqi threat directly hits Israeli tourism

TAL AVIV (R) — Tourism, Israel's biggest foreign currency earner, has taken a direct hit from the undeclared war in the Gulf.

Jerusalem hotels say they have far fewer foreign guests than usual and virtually no reservations from mid-October to the end of November.

American Jews, the mainstay of tourism in Israel, are either cancelling or leaving earlier than planned.

And, say Israeli businessmen, an army decision to distribute gas masks in response to Iraqi chemical warfare threats will only make a bad situation worse.

"It's simply inconceivable," Moshe Amir, head of Israel's hotel association, told Israel radio Tuesday.

He said Israel, despite having a strong army, was behaving "like a ghetto community that is helpless and is expecting the holocaust."

"With an image like this, there is no chance tourists will come," he added.

Israel has developed a major tourism business that brings in more income and foreign currency than any other industry.

Tourism generated \$1.8 billion in 1989.

But Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and the mobilisation of a 300,000-strong multinational force in the Gulf, coupled with direct Iraqi threats against Israel, seem to be scaring tourists off.

"The Americans are definitely cancelling," U.S.-born Jerusalem travel agent Esther Salomoo said. Last month Ben-Gurion Airport, tourists' main port of entry to Israel, showed an 8.3 per cent drop in passenger traffic compared to September 1989.

A Norwegian tourism operator, Star Tour, said Tuesday it had cancelled a weekly charter flight to Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat after bookings slumped due to the Gulf crisis.

"We didn't make the decision for political reasons, but because people don't want to go there," Star Tour spokesman Frode Hanssen said in Oslo.

Eilat accounts for more per cent of Israel's tourism revenues.

Eilat municipal and hotel officials say bookings are depressing-

ly slim this year.

In Jerusalem, the Hyatt Hotel laid off more than 200 staff last month. The Hilton nearly closed for the weekend due to lack of business.

Hilton spokesman Morti Versas said the hotel would be 60 per cent full next week, but half the guests would be Israelis taking vacation over Jewish holiday and the other half would be fundamentalist Christian pilgrims celebrating the feast of the Tabernacles.

The International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem said it expected 4,000 of the staunchly pro-Israel pilgrims for the week-long holiday.

Israel's tourism industry has suffered recently especially in 1986 when it was the threat of international terrorism. In late 1987 it was the start of the Palestinian uprising which is continuing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the short term, tourists apparently take little comfort from an army plan to provide them with gas masks through the hotels.

Oman to boost oil production

NICOSIA (R) — Oman will boost its oil output to 700,000 barrels per day (b/d) over the rest of this year from 650,000 before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait two months ago, the official Omani news agency said Wednesday. It quoted an official report as saying 84 new fields came on stream in 1989, taking the total in production to 1,186 and boosting output by 3.5 per cent compared with 1988, to just over 640,000 b/d. The agency, received in Cyprus, said the further increase in output had been decided in cooperation with OPEC.

Bush calls on Americans to support budget plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush wants Americans to convince skittish lawmakers that backing a \$500 billion budget package won't cost them reelection, even though it requires taxpayers to shoulder "a small burden."

"I'm not, and I know you're not, a fan of tax increases," Bush said in a nationally televised address Tuesday night.

"But if there have to be tax measures, they should allow the economy to grow. They should not turn us back to higher income tax rates, and they should be fair," he added, referring to the proposed tax increases on gasoline, cigarettes, boats, liquor and furs.

Many lawmakers already are shunning the package because it will hit Americans hard in the wallet, a fact that could reverberate when voters go to the polls next month.

A congressional study released Tuesday said the poor would be hit hardest by the package and the rich would feel its increases the least. The plan's increased taxes and reduced benefits would take an average two per cent of the earnings of one-fifth of Americans with the lowest incomes, according to the survey by the House Ways and Means Committee.

In a third straight day of public and private lobbying for the agreement worked out by his aides and congressional leaders, the president was meeting Wednesday with journalists from around the country.

Bush offered a tepid defence of the plan in his brief speech Tuesday night, saying, "I cannot claim it's the best deficit reduction plan possible. It's not... but it is the best agreement that can be legislated now."

Earlier, Bush summoned a group of business representatives to the White House and told them "everybody has had to compromise" for the agreement.

"The country, frankly, is at stake here," he said.

Apparently referring to his violation of his "no new taxes" campaign pledge and his failure to get a capital gains tax cut, Bush said, "I don't want to sound sanctimonious about this, but I was elected to govern."

Speaking for the Democratic leadership, senate majority leader George Mitchell echoed the president, saying, "This package is a compromise. Neither side got what it wanted."

More Poles support far-reaching reforms

WARSAW (AP) — As Soviet lawmakers were approving a radical plan to rescue their collapsing economy, a survey showed Poles are increasingly satisfied with their own far-reaching reform programme begun Jan. 1.

More than one in three Poles supports the unprecedented economic reform plan to transform the former centrally planned economy into a free market system, according to a September opinion poll published by the Gazeta Wyborcza daily.

The survey conducted by the state polling agency showed that after eight months of the so-called Balcerowicz plan, 34.8 per cent supported the policy, about nine percentage points over July results. The plan is named after its main architect, Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz.

Meanwhile, the number of people who do not accept the plan, 21 per cent, is the lowest since March.

Others said they did not know much about the plan or had no opinion.

The centre for polling public opinion also registered growing approval for Balcerowicz himself — with 54.3 per cent saying he is doing a good job, compared to 45.3 in July.

Gazeta called some of poll's results "surprising." For instance, many respondents said production and quality improvement had increased because of the reform plan, even though official statistics show a 20 per cent drop in industrial production.

More than 70 per cent of Poles were skeptical about quick improvement in their living standards and the country's economy, saying they expect such changes to take five years.

Almost 75 per cent favour privatisation of state-owned industries, a process government officials hope will create new jobs. More than 800,000 Poles are unemployed.

The centre's polls are conducted with about 1,000 respondents nationwide and have a three per cent margin of error.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Wednesday, October 3, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	654.0	658.0	
Pound Sterling	1237.1	1244.5	
Deutsche mark	422.1	424.6	
Swiss franc	508.1	511.1	
French franc			126.0
Japanese yen (for 100)			479.1
Dutch guilder			374.4
Swedish crown			114.4
Italian lire (for 100)			56.4
Belgian franc (for 10)			204.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.8910/20	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.5253/35	Canadian dollar	
	1.5515/20	Deutsche mark	
	1.7435/95	Dutch guilder	
	1.2915/25	Swiss franc	
	31.92/97	Belgian franc	
	5.1950/2000	French franc	
	1161/1163	Italian lire	
	136.65/75	Japanese yen	
	5.7195/7245	Swedish crown	
	6.0200/50	Norwegian crown	
	5.9250/9300	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	388.50/389.00	U.S. dollars	

Gulf crisis dims Thai stock market

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai stock market, hit by soaring oil prices and fears of a global economic slowdown, has become another victim of the Gulf crisis.

Touted as one of Asia's emerging stars before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the market has done an about-face, plunging more than 40 per cent in the past two months after gaining 30 per cent in the previous seven.

The composite set index tumbled to a 14-month low of 613.95 points on Sept. 25 after hitting its all-time high of 1,143.78 on July 25. Thai stocks have lost some 400 billion baht (\$15.7 billion) of their market value since Aug. 2.

The index has staged a small recovery in recent days, closing at about 654.23 Monday, but analysts say further declines are likely.

The free-fall, steeper than in most other exchanges, has occurred despite a strong domestic economy.

Government and private economists say that even with soaring oil prices, Thai gross domestic product will expand a real six to seven per cent in 1991 after about 9.5 per cent this year.

But Tim McKenna, an analyst at Jardine Fleming Thanakom Securities Co., said: "We haven't seen the bottom yet... the situation that causes the plunge has not been fixed."

"So long as the Gulf is still a hotbed, no one is committing new money to the market. The strategy is to wait it out," he pointed out.

Huge losses for small investors have dried up market liquidity, with daily turnover shrinking to about 1.5 to two billion baht (\$59 to \$79 million) from an average five billion (\$198 million) before the Gulf crisis.

Some analysts say the market was already ripe for a fall before the Gulf crisis because it had become overvalued.

With the index at 1,100, "it was an over-bought market," said Prachya Kulvanichpith of Chin Tunya. "Fundamentally it should have been at 750 before the Gulf crisis."

Thienchai Chanchaoayothin, senior analyst at Baring Research, said stocks could fall another 10 per cent.

He said the chances of prices springing back up quickly were slim. "The upside is capped by the Mideast stalemate, rising interest rates and an overhang of selling pressure from people now sitting on big losses."

Many investors have been caught holding stocks bought when the set index was in the 900-950 range, and their losses are too heavy for them to sell now, brokers said.

"The third oil shock has suddenly produced a big group of new poor among middle-class housewives, civil servants and office workers who have bet on stocks. Many of them have been forced to sell their mobile phones," one broker said.

The government and the local securities industry are grappling with ways to prop up the market.

The association of stock exchange members last month hastily set up an initial five billion baht (\$198 million) fund to stabilise the market but its manager, the Mutual Fund Co., has been cautious about investing in the current bleak environment.

"The fund only briefly achieved its psychological objective when it was announced. Its resources are too limited to really turn the market around," McKenna said.

Last month the stock exchange cut, to 50 per cent from 80 per cent, the cash margin that investors must put up to buy stocks. But Prachya said this measure might hurt the market rather than help it, because it could prompt heavily indebted and reckless speculators to slide into deeper trouble.

Belgrade faces problems as inflation resurges

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government has run into problems implementing a Western-style economic reform programme and inflation has risen after a sharp drop earlier this year, government officials said Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister Zivko Pregl said that although the communist government slashed rampant monthly inflation to around 7.1 per cent in September — twice as fast as expected.

He said market-oriented reforms, such as privatisation and bank restructuring, were hindered by the six Yugoslav republics blocking or delaying the passage of laws vital for the reform programme launched last December.

The republics had also not adhered to key policies, such as restricting wage increases and closing loss-making factories, and the government was under growing criticism, he said.

"We should all be aware that the reforms are attacked by everyone," Pregl told a news conference. "It's true there are very many problems right now."

"If we want to be open to the world and implement democratisation, we have to pay a certain cost. There have to be victims," he said.

Pregl's comments were the most open confirmation by government officials that the reforms programme launched by Prime Minister Ante Markovic last Dec. 18 is facing difficulties despite some early successes.

In a further blow, Finance Minister Branko Zenko said foreign creditors were cautious about offering medium or long term loans because of instability in Yugoslavia, where violence flared between Croats and Serbs at the weekend.

He told the news conference that an unexpected rise in wages over the past few months could put in doubt a stand-by arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Yugoslavia wants loans to service foreign debts of about \$17 billion and eventually to launch a new investment cycle.

Markovic has devalued the Yugoslav dinar by 10,000 times, pinned its value to the Deutsche mark, imposed tight controls on money supply and encouraged market-oriented changes.

In his main early success, he slashed monthly inflation from 65 per cent in December 1989 to around zero in April.

But Yugoslav and Western economists say the republics of Serbia and Croatia, in particular, have largely ignored restrictions on pay rises and inflation could gather pace again.

The country's monthly wage bill should total about 20 billion dinars (\$1.6 billion) but reached 27.6 billion dinars (\$2.3 billion) in July, government officials say.

Economists say constitutional amendments and new law on banking, taxes and privatisation face opposition by the republics and a plan to pay workers part of their salary in company shares may have to be scrapped or altered.

TODAY AT

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

MOVING

Richard Bryer, Randy Quade

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema NIJOM Tel: 675571

Ilham Shahin, Hisham Abdul Hamid

AL MULK LILLAH (Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

LICENCE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

POLICE ACADEMY "6"

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

Mahmoud Abdul Aziz - Maail Zayed

LADIES AND MADEMOISELLES

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Full floor apartment consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 salons, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 3 verandas and a small garden. Separate telephone line, separate central heating and other services. Located in Jabal Amman, near German Language Institute.

Contact 828558.

Nationalists, police clash in Kiev

MOSCOW (AP) — Nationalist demonstrators clashed with police in front of the parliament building in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, and several people were injured, according to press reports.

It was the third such demonstration in as many days in Kiev, but it was the first time violence was reported.

The incident occurred one day after the conservative majority in parliament voted to uphold a decree banning rallies in front of the parliament building. Opposition members of the parliament walked out of Monday's session in protest.

In Tuesday's demonstration, hundreds of people marched to the building and called for the dissolution of parliament, the resignation of the government and the Ukraine's secession from the Soviet Union, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported. Many in the crowd carried the nationalist blue and gold flag.

Protesters then clashed with police, and there were several injuries, TASS said. There were no additional details.

The nationalist Rukh Movement reported that several dozen

demonstrators tried to break through police barricades, leading to the violence. Several people were beaten, it said, and one policeman was injured.

It quoted a 77-year-old woman identified as Perohija Pitak as saying she was hit with a truncheon and suffered a cut and bruised nose.

Rukh blamed the violence on unidentified "provocateurs," but it also quoted an unidentified nationalist sympathiser as saying, "there was fault on both sides."

Inside the parliament, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said Monday's general strike in the republic had failed, TASS reported. Kravchuk, one of the objects of the protesters' anger, thanked Ukrainian workers for their cooperation and civic spirit, the official news agency said.

Some members of parliament demanded that a commission be formed to investigate the violence outside. TASS reported. Rukh said the entire afternoon session was devoted to the issue, and quoted deputy Pavlo Morchan as saying that the decision to limit access to the square outside parliament "will only increase ten-

sions and lead to further confrontation."

Meanwhile, Lithuania and the Soviet Union agreed Tuesday to conduct their economic and trade relations for 1991 as equal partners, in a further stride toward independence for the Baltic republic.

"The first step has been taken, and it was a major step, and we did not lose our bearings," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told a news conference after the Kremlin meeting.

The talks, headed on the Soviet side by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, were the first at such a high level since Lithuania suspended its March 11 declaration of independence following the Kremlin's economic embargo against the republic.

A communique issued afterward also mentioned preparations for future "negotiations." That is a significant concession by the Soviet side, because President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has maintained bilateral "negotiations" can occur only between two nations and not between the Kremlin and a republic.

Asked whether the Kremlin

has changed its view on independence for Lithuania and is now willing to negotiate, Landsbergis replied: "We'll like to think it is so, yet further meetings will show if it really is so."

On the Lithuanian side, the communique said the republic will discuss "addressing the opinions of various groups of residents" — a reference to the interests of the large Russian population of the Baltic republic who oppose independence. The Kremlin has alleged that Lithuania's Russian population has been the object of discrimination during the republic's independence drive.

According to the communique, the delegations "agreed that their further activities will be conducted according to bilateral trade and economic relations for the year 1991."

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene explained the agreement would mean "closer economic cooperation" with the Soviet Union, based on more of a partnership principle, rather than the previous practice of a republic's rigid subordination to the central government.

More Rwandans join invasion force

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni expressed surprise Wednesday at the large number of Rwandan refugees deserting Uganda's army to join an invasion force into neighbouring Rwanda.

Government sources said Tuesday that 500 heavily-armed Rwandan refugees led by a senior officer in the Ugandan army had invaded Rwanda in an attempt to topple the government of the tiny central African state.

Museveni told the New Vision daily in an interview from the United States where he attended a U.N. summit on children that the ranks of the invaders, who crossed the border Sunday, had been swelled by more desertions from the Ugandan army.

"We have been taken aback by the scale and rapidity of the desertions," he said.

But sources close to the government in Uganda dismissed as "vastly exaggerated" a statement from a Rwandan Defence Ministry official which estimated the invading force at between 5,000 and 10,000 men.

Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana was also at the United Nations in New York when the attack broke place. He is cutting short his stay and returning home because of the crisis.

Unconfirmed reports in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, said Rwandan refugees in Tanzania had rallied to the banner of the invading force led by Major-General Fred Rwigyema.

In Rwanda, a dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed. An official there, identified as Colonel Rusastira, told Radio France Internationale the invading force was 5,000 to 10,000 strong and had already begun fighting.

"That figure is impossible. It would be the same size as the entire armed forces of Rwanda," a diplomat in Kampala told Reuters. "It would have been impossible for them to organise that many men without the Ugandan government finding out."

Bomb explodes at U.S. envoy's home in Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A home-made bomb exploded at the Pretoria home of the U.S. ambassador to South Africa, William Swing, early Wednesday, police said.

They said no one was injured in the blast which damaged a gate post and a garden shed.

Swing was not at home when the bomb went off — a week after South African President F.W. de Klerk returned from a visit to the United States and talks with President George Bush.

A police spokesman told reporters no suspects had yet been identified.

The bomb went off at the residence in Pretoria's plush Waterkloof suburb at 1 a.m. (2300 GMT Tuesday), but embassy security staff reported the incident seven hours later, police said.

A U.S. consulate spokesman said: "A small explosive device was detonated early Wednesday outside the rear gate of the compound containing the U.S. ambassador's residence."

"There was slight damage to the gate, there were no injuries," he said.

Home-made bombs using commercial explosives have in the past often been the work of white

supremacists opposing De Klerk's reform plans. They resent U.S. sanctions aimed at forcing the country to scrap apartheid.

Anti-apartheid guerrillas have tended to use Soviet-made limpet mines in bomb attacks.

Meanwhile Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said Tuesday he rejected a meeting with Nelson Mandela because the format would fail to stop savage faction fighting that has killed hundreds.

Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the largest black opposition movement, had invited Buthelezi and other leaders of black tribal homelands to a meeting Friday to discuss violence that erupted on Aug. 12 in black townships around Johannesburg.

The meeting was considered a possible breakthrough in efforts to halt the carnage, which has mostly pitted Xhosa and other blacks linked to the ANC against Zulu supporters of the Inkatha Movement, which Buthelezi also heads.

But Buthelezi had said he would reject attempts to portray him solely as the Zulu homeland leader instead of Inkatha leader. He also wanted a one-on-one meeting with Mandela before the Friday meeting.

COLUMN

Chinese-S. Korean romance survives obstacles

PEKING (R) — A table tennis love match between a South Korean Romeo and a Chinese Juliet has become a symbol of warming relations between the two countries, one of the main themes of the Asian Games. Overcoming family and diplomatic obstacles and the lack of a common language, retired table tennis stars Ahn Jae-Hyong and Jiao Zhimin married last October and have become a big attraction at the games. "Before, I believed it was impossible to marry," said Ahn, 26, dressed in the blue and white track suit of the South Korean team he once played for. "There were just too many obstacles. But we have done it," he said in an interview in a Peking hotel, speaking the Chinese he has been studying since the wedding. The couple, who live in Seoul, are in Peking as part of Jiao's job covering sport for a South Korean newspaper. The two first met at an international table tennis competition in Pakistan in 1984. They met again in 1985 and the romance began to blossom with an exchange of presents. Because there were no direct mail links between the two countries, letters had to be carried by friends and team members. "When I told my mother, she became very agitated and could not sleep," Jiao said. "She said there were so many men in China. She was nervous about my living in a foreign country and asked what would happen if my husband decided he did not want me." She said her family, who live in the far north province of Heilongjiang where her father is a businessman, were impressed by Ahn when they met him. Her manager did not oppose the romance as long as it did not affect her playing. Jiao retired after winning a bronze medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and the two married in Stockholm last October. They then had a traditional Korean wedding ceremony in the Olympic village in Seoul, and Jiao became a South Korean citizen.

Fate of Chinese hijack victims veiled in secrecy and confusion

CANTON, China (R) — Confusion, secrecy and distress Wednesday marked China's handling of its worst air disaster in a decade. Anxious relatives wept as officials refused to reveal the whereabouts or fate of passengers still unaccounted for after a hijacked Chinese airliner crashed in flames into two parked planes at Canton's Baiyao (White Cloud) Airport Tuesday.

Chinese officials said 127 people died when the hijacked Boeing 737 exploded on landing and ploughed into a fully-laden 757 waiting to take off for Shanghai and an empty 707.

The special handling committee set up in Canton to cope with the aftermath of the crash rejected pleas from relatives for information on whether missing passengers were in the mortuary or in hospital.

"We are going to visit every hospital looking for our missing relations," said one distraught

Canton woman as she stormed out of the committee's temporary offices in the Yunshan Hotel more than 15 hours after the crash. "The officials will do nothing for us. We are better alone."

More than 12 hours later officials finally handed out lists of the dead and injured. One man broke down and wept, and the distraught woman fainted.

Officials at the United States consulate in Canton eventually located one American woman by calling every hospital in the city until they found a doctor who said a foreigner had been admitted.

Relatives who did reach hospitals were in many cases turned away and medical authorities refused to divulge the identity of patients.

Erin Thomas of Oklahoma in the United States was conscious and talking a few hours after she was pulled from the burning

wreckage of the 737, a U.S. consular official said but the casualty list reported her as dead.

Mary Ann Gilbert, also an American, was listed among the survivors, but a question mark was scored against her name.

She has been missing since the plane exploded in a ball of flame on the ground, killing 80 of the 102 people aboard.

The U.S. consulate delivered a diplomatic note requesting a passenger list but did not receive a copy of the hand-written document for several hours after reporters had obtained copies and then only after Chinese officials had turned away one consulate driver empty handed.

China has for decades preferred to draw a veil over accidents and natural disasters.

But Canton's proximity to the British colony of Hong Kong and the involvement of foreigners thwarted any effort to conceal the disaster.

Senate approves Souter for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — David H. Souter, a reserved and little-known jurist, has been approved as the replacement for the Supreme Court's leading liberal.

The Senate Wednesday voted 90-9 to approve Souter, the first Supreme Court nominee of President George Bush. At age 51, Souter potentially could spend decades on the high court, where justices frequently serve to an advanced age.

William H. Brennan, whom Souter replaces, resigned.

There was little doubt Souter would be a more conservative justice than Brennan, but Souter's position on social issues, including abortion, is harder to predict.

Unity spectacle recalls German past, but message is different

BERLIN (Agencies) — Spotlights and fireworks stroking the midnight sky, thunderous swells of Beethoven and flags and torchlight waving before a monument of past reichs ushered in German unification Wednesday.

But if the overpowering atmosphere of unity's flagship fest at the Reichstag building in Berlin may have recalled the showmanship of Germany's nationalist past, there was none of the old self-glorification — "Deutschland ueber alles."

The hundreds of thousands gathered on the Platz Der Republik before the Reichstag cheered their new oneness loud and often and a sea of red-black-gold flags and torchlight shimmered over the throng.

But there were virtually no hints of Germany's aggressive history — imperial eagle flags, placards with "Germany first" slogans or rightist disturbances.

The faces in the crowd were those of a calmer young generation who said the big bash was all about a happily remarried nation dedicated to living at peace with neighbours, not lordling it over them.

"We want to serve peace in the world in a united Europe," President Richard von Weizsaecker told the throng in a much applauded address from the Reichstag's open-air stage.

Organisers had feared that neo-Nazi gangs intent on greeting unification as the dawn of a fourth reich would try to disrupt ceremonies and spread an ominous first image of unification abroad.

But they never showed up, possibly daunted by a huge mobilisation of riot police throughout central Berlin.

"Those neo-fascists don't reflect what the vast majority of Germans today feel," said Jutta

Reis, a 43-year-old West German mother who was enthusiastically waving a torch.

"We think it's super that the whole world is looking at Berlin again. We waited 40 long years to come together. But foreigners who say the world should start fearing the Germans again are just wrong," she said. "We want to be a normal country living in peace with the rest."

A typical banner read: "I'm happy about Germany. Never again socialism." Another said: "Thank you Helmut for unity," a tribute to West German Chancellor Kohl who was greeted with chants of "Helmut, Helmut" on his arrival.

Ingo Sobotta, a 24-year-old East German said: "We're a different generation that wants to go forward, not backward to the attitudes that brought calamity to the world."

He was referring to two world wars started by previous incarnations of a united Germany.

The Reichstag rite was marred only briefly by scores of revellers who broke through police lines and tried to clamber on the dignitaries' stage, provoking security men to fire warning shots in the air. The crowd quickly retreated.

As the clock ticked the final minutes to midnight, the Reichstag throng — bathed in floodlights — began to roar in anticipation. Countless heads of torchlight shimmered in the damp, nippy autumn air as church bells around the city began chiming, their sound piped in on loudspeakers.

Fourteen youths — seven each from East and West Germany — emerged below the stage holding a 60-square-metre tricoloured flag like a huge bed sheet.

An orchestra played the "Deutschlandlied" (Song of Germany) as the flag was hoisted to a

crescendo of cheers — a few seconds erasing 45 years of traumatic national division.

Official fireworks then erupted over the nearby Brandenburger gate, complementing the whining streaks of Roman candles fired by revellers and three special spotlights that crisscrossed the heavens above the Reichstag.

Soaring strains of Beethoven and other German composers rolled over the multitude for a half hour, providing an incongruous soundtrack to the spectacle of police pending off merrymakers crowding the stage.

For the wee hours of spontaneous mixing ahead, the city's AIDS-help office handed out free condoms.

Germany became one nation Wednesday, but it was clear that its inhabitants are still two people.

For West Germans, the celebration was pure, a victory. But for East Germans, it was tinged with angst. Many are now out of work — or will be soon — and must find a way to fit into a foreign society.

Harmut Giese watched the scene from nearby Potsdamer Platz, the once-bustling main square of old Berlin reduced to a muddy field by the Berlin Wall.

"This was overdone, all of this mooney," said the 46-year-old East German, a teacher at a machinists trade school.

"But we need things like this to help bring us together, to give us something to share," he said. "Even children in kindergarten here think in terms of communism, closed borders. Everything is still new."

Giese said his 19-year-old daughter was a dissident during the old days and was relentlessly harassed by the Communist secret police. He said she now lives in West Germany.

"It was hard for us," he said. Standing not too far away, with his wife and two children, was Wolf Gieser, an employee for the East German airline Interflug. He said he's losing his job by year's end.

"I came for the fireworks," he said. "Unity is so-so. There are just too many economic problems for me."

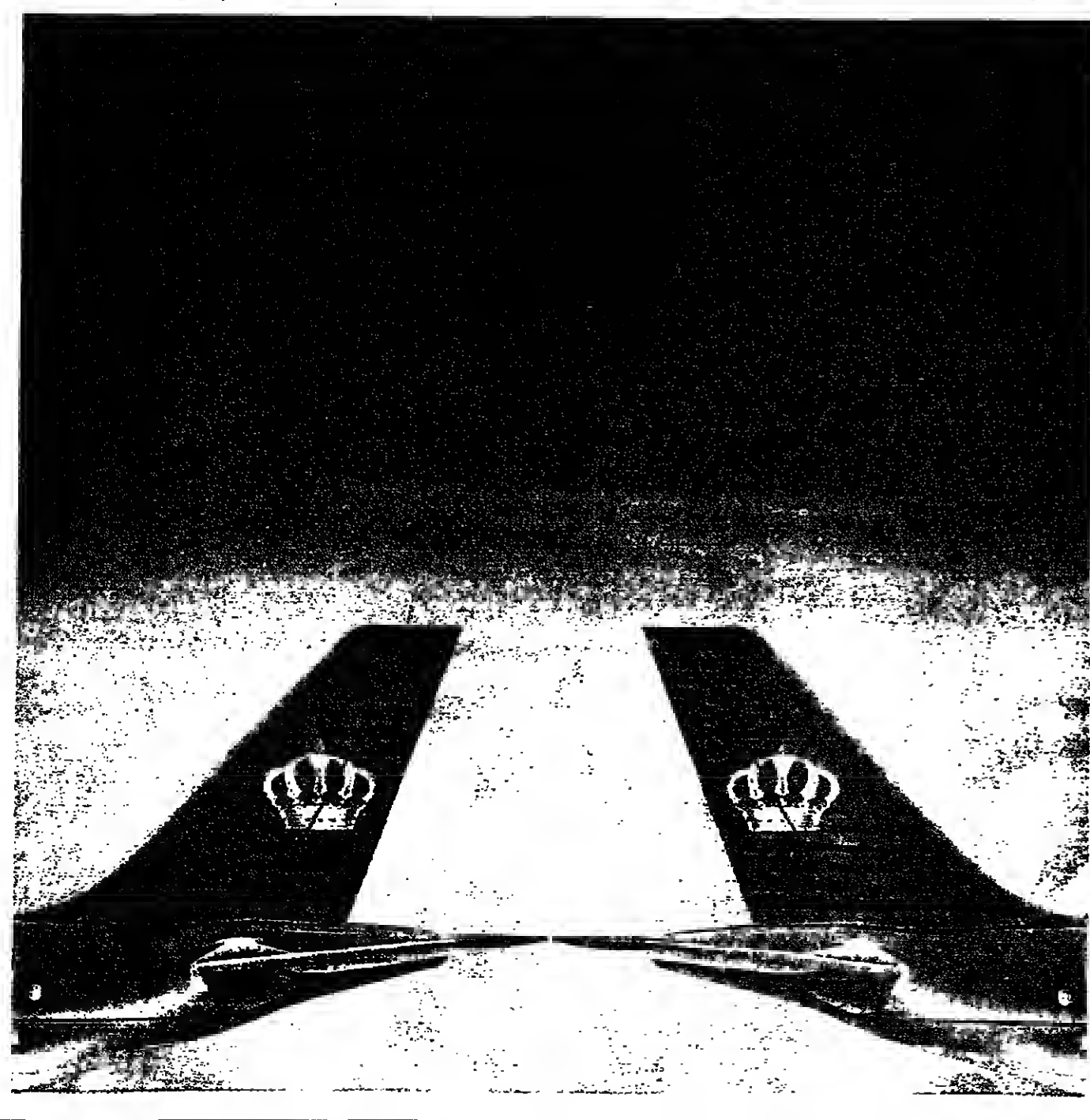
East Berlin's main avenue, the broad Unter Den Linden, was a surging tide of shoulder-to-shoulder celebrants who flowed from one side of downtown to the other.

'Lost' Mozart manuscript to be auctioned

LONDON (R) — A manuscript of two of Mozart's finest piano works, presumed lost until it was found in the United States, will be auctioned in London next month. Sotheby's auctioneers said the 14-page manuscript of the Fantasia in C Minor and the Sonata in C Minor was expected to fetch up to £750,000 (\$1.4 million). It was discovered last July in a safe in a theological seminary in Philadelphia, where it had lain untouched for 33 years since its donation by a U.S. philanthropist. It had not been seen by scholars since the early 19th century and was recorded in Koehel's catalogue of Mozart's works as "unauffindbar... unbekannt" (not to be found... unknown). Although unsigned and undated, it is known to have been written in 1784 and 1785. Stephen Roe of Sotheby's said the manuscript, which includes material omitted from the published version, was clearly Mozart's original working copy. "When I discovered what the manuscript was and realised it was the long-lost autograph manuscript of these poignantly beautiful and deservedly renowned pieces, I was thrilled," he said. "The re-emergence of this manuscript is an event of considerable importance for Mozart scholarship."

Man who posed as cheerleader charged

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — A 26-year-old man who allegedly masqueraded as a female high school student and cheerleader was charged with second-degree forgery and criminal impersonation. Charles Daugherty appeared at his hearing in El Paso County District Court dressed in women's garb, including a long-haired wig and scarf. He said he now goes by the name Shannon Ireland. Authorities said Daugherty enrolled on Sept. 6 at Coronado High School as a junior named Cheyenne Weatherly. Daugherty allegedly kept his pose going for six days before school officials discovered he was a man. After his arrest, he was freed on \$750 bond. Judge Richard V. Hall set a preliminary hearing for Oct. 25, court clerk Barbara Yeomann said. School officials said Daugherty claimed he studied in Greece with a tutor for two years and presented records that later proved false.



AVIS امين جندل

SPECIAL PRICE FROM AVIS

AVIS Rent A Car offers you the following:-
— V.W. Golf, Nissan Sunny JD 15.- per day
— Nissan Sunny A.C. JD 20.- per day
— Volvo 460 A.C. JD 25.- per day
— Nissan 4x4 JD 30.- per day

Price including:
* Unlimited free km, * Comprehensive insurance
Call Tel: (603500) Amman.